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THE DEBATE ON IRELAND.

SOMETHING, after all, is to be done for Ireland. The Government will give that unhappy country a debate, if nothing else. In past Sessions it has often been found difficult to get or keep a sufficient number of members together to render a discussion on Irish affairs possible; but some earnestness was shown on both sides in the debate of Tuesday last, and the present position of Ireland is, indeed, sufficiently alarming to render it incumbent on any Ministry possessing the least prudence or the least self-respect to devote to it its most serious attention. Mr. Maguire made what we can, unfortunately, only regard as a very temperate statement as to the actual condition of things in Ireland. Far from seeming to be a portion of an empire at peace with the rest of the world and with itself, it is held by an army of occupation aided by a strong civil force armed and drilled for the performance of military duties. Men-of-war are in its commercial harbours, a fleet cruises off its western coast, and its inland rivers are guarded by gun-boats. In the meanwhile the population is disarmed, the liberty of the subject does not exist, and peaceable citizens are at the mercy of spies and informers. So much for the state of things during the actual crisis. Before the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, and ere the insurrectionary acts of the Fenians compelled the Government to take

fellow-subjects had no tangible ground of complaint against the Imperial Government. They were governed by the same laws as the English, it was said; the rate of taxation was a little in their favour; they were admitted, on

undergone a change. Inquiry has been forced upon us, and we have seen plainly that, with or without reason, the Irish complain bitterly of the existence of the Protestant Establishment, which, besides being a financial injustice, appears

to them in the light of an institution imposed upon them by their conquerors; and of the law, or absence of law, in connection with the occupancy of land, through which a tenant who has improved his farm gets nothing allowed to him for those improvements by the landlord, and even runs the risk of having the additional value which he has given to the land charged to him in his rent. The Irish farmer then—and in Ireland every peasant tries to get a farm, on no matter what terms—is certainly not in the same position as the English farmer, though he may be governed by the same Imperial laws. In England the proprietor, as a general rule, spends money upon the improvement of his land; if necessary improvements are made by the tenant they are allowed for, in virtue of a custom almost as binding as law; and whether the improvements are paid for by the landlord or by the tenant, the rent of the farmer is rarely raised on the ground that he has increased the value of his farm. Indeed, apart from questions of custom and of obvious justice, it would in most cases be impossible in England for landlords to raise the rent upon improving tenants, inasmuch as in this country large numbers of farms are let upon lease. It is quite in-



"PREPARING FOR GUESTS."—(FROM A PICTURE, BY A. C. H. LUXMORE, IN THE DUDLEY GALLERY EXHIBITION.)

measures of precaution against their wild and criminal designs, Ireland was suffering from two heavy grievances of ancient origin; and it is to their existence, according to Mr. Maguire, that the present discontent in Ireland is attributable. A few years ago the English were under the impression that their Irish

the same terms as the English, to all public offices in all parts of the United Kingdom; and all they had to say against British rule was that it had pressed cruelly upon them in former days. But the views of most liberal Englishmen have lately, and especially since the beginning of the Fenian agitation,

correct then, to say that the farmers in Ireland are in the same position as the farmers in England; and in the former country they constitute a very much larger class, in proportion to the whole population, than they do with us. It is monstrous, moreover, comparisons apart, to pretend that the position of

the Irish farmer—indeed, of the agricultural population in general—is a tolerable one; and it is vain to imagine that a sense of the injustice and tyranny with which the peasant is treated has no effect in weakening his loyalty to a Government that maintains the system under which he suffers. With the general character of the Church grievance everyone is familiar. In England we should never allow the Roman Catholic minority to hold and administer the whole ecclesiastical funds of the country for their benefit, nor, apart from the revenue question, should we allow that Church to assume the character of a State establishment. We all know how firmly and valiantly the Scotch resisted all attempts to force Episcopalianism upon them as a State religion; and yet at this moment there are numbers of men in England who believe, or affect to believe, that the Irish Catholics are not very seriously wounded by the existence of what is called the "Irish Church," but which is, in fact, the Church of England transplanted to Irish soil, in which it has never taken root.

Mr. Maguire's speech was important as a representation of the grievances under which Ireland is suffering at this moment and as a reminder of other far worse grievances from which she suffered at the beginning of the present century; and the only other noteworthy speech on Tuesday was the one made in reply, and on behalf of the Government, by the Earl of Mayo. Lord Mayo endeavoured to show that Ireland was not in anything like so disaffected a state as Mr. Maguire had tried to make out; that the country was improving generally, or had been until the commencement of the Fenian disturbances; and that the material condition of the peasantry was, in many respects, better now than it ever had been before. As to the land question, he admitted that tenants ought to have some security that they should not be turned out of their holding at the mere will of the proprietor, and he even promised to introduce a bill in which it should be provided that all contracts for letting land in Ireland should be made in writing, with full specification of terms. With regard to the Irish Establishment he did not go nearly so far; but he had, at least, admitted that the tenant system, as now existing, was unjust, and that it might and should be reformed. But he never once acknowledged in so many words that the Protestant Episcopal Church—the Church of the small minority—was felt as a wrong by the Catholic majority; and, whether it was so felt or not, he declared his belief that it would be next to impossible to mend the matter; and he, of course, held out little hope that the present Government would try to mend it. Nobody, he said, could persuade him that the Irish Roman Catholic farmer or labourer, when he passed the door of one of the ministers of the Established Church, looked upon the existence of that man in Ireland, whom he had known as a generous neighbour and a kind friend, as an intolerable evil and a badge of subjection. To show the difficulty of settling the question he quoted an instructive passage from a speech made by Earl Russell, when the great Whig leader was not in opposition, but in office. A proposal having been made to distribute the revenues of the Irish Church among the various religious dominations of the country, Lord Russell, while admitting that he could "understand" the view taken of the Protestant Establishment by the Catholics of Ireland, declared that, in his opinion, a redistribution of the Church property, instead of remedying the evil, would aggravate it, inasmuch as, without satisfying the Catholics or the Presbyterians, it would alienate from us the sympathies of the Protestant Episcopalians. Lord Mayo quoted this argument with evident approval, and he went on to say that the party in Ireland which had supported the Government must be supported in return. So that all the Ministry mean to do in the way of legislating for Ireland is to introduce a law on the subject of leases. Whether the Opposition will agree with the Government that this will be sufficient remains to be seen.

"PREPARING FOR QUESTS."

THIS picture, although not the most imposing, is one of the brightest and most prominent of the works just exhibited at the Dudley Gallery; and Mr. Luxmore has succeeded in giving a character to his simple story which cannot fail to be attractive, since the single figure in which we are called upon to find an interest is so lifelike and attractive that our attention, at once arrested by the aid of pure colour, admirably arranged background, and almost perfect drawing, is retained by that underlying truthfulness which is the rare characteristic of the genuine artist. The obvious episode of the flowers in that vase is in itself suggestive, since it is evident that the more commonplace duties of household preparation have for a moment given place to the sense of some coming festivity. The broom is left idle, and the room only half "tidied up," under the stress of a sudden perception of the need of ornament to give grace to an uncommon occasion; and that placid, half-dreamy, but altogether bright and happy face produces almost a sense of anxiety as we think of the probable arrival of the "company" before the essentials of domestic order are completed. It would be a sort of calamity for the knock at the door to be heard before that broom had been got out of the way, the chairs set in their places, and everything put in "apple-pie order;" and one might almost fancy some such expression in the face of the old portrait looking down from the wall. It is doubtful whether the young housewife will gain much by another sort of "company" headgear, or by the substitution of a best dress and a cap of society; but she must not linger too long over the tender blooms or a sudden arrival may bring still deeper blushes to her own fair brow than she has yet stolen from the petals which she is disposing so lovingly to adorn her parlour table.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL, it is said, will provide for the disfranchisement of eight boroughs having constituencies respectively of under 200 electors. The boroughs are Cashel, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Ennis, Kinsale, Mallow, New Ross, and Portlinton. Their seats will be distributed with reference to population.

THE PREMIER AND LORD CHELMSFORD.—We hear that explanations have passed between Mr. Disraeli and Lord Chelmsford, with a satisfactory result. It is now said that Lord Chelmsford, on the formation of Lord Derby's Government, was appointed Lord Chancellor on a distinct understanding that he might be asked at any time to make way for Lord Cairns. Mr. Disraeli had relied on this in arranging to appoint Lord Cairns; Lord Chelmsford had utterly forgotten the existence of such a condition; but on the production of his own letter to Lord Derby, he has admitted Mr. Disraeli's perfect right to do what he did, and the Prime Minister and Lord Chelmsford have shaken hands.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French Government on Saturday sustained a defeat in the Chamber on one of the clauses of the amended Press Bill. The clause, with a weak amendment, to which the Government consented at the eleventh hour, proposed, by way of supplementary punishment for offending journalists, to deprive them of their civil rights. The object of this was to give the Government the power of rendering any journalist ineligible for election to the Chamber. The best men on both sides of the House saw the danger, and, after a sharp debate, the clause and the amendment were rejected by 134 votes to 72. The bill has now passed the Chamber, and has been laid before the Senate.

The financial bills which were presented on Monday to the French legislative body were on Tuesday distributed among the deputies. The supplementary credits for the ordinary Budget of 1868 amount to 61,000,000 francs, of which 49,000,000 are for military expenses; and the supplementary credits for the extraordinary Budget of 1868 amount to 109,000,000, of which 57,000,000 are for military and 26,000,000 for naval purposes. The excess of expenditure over revenue for 1868 is estimated at 128,000,000. In the ordinary Budget of 1869 the expenditure for military purposes is fixed at 381,000,000, or 33,000,000 more than in 1868. In the extraordinary Budget the total expenditure amounts to 184,000,000, of which 37,000,000 are for military and 21,000,000 for naval purposes.

The directors of the *Liberté*, *Avenir National*, *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and *Journal des Débats* have requested the Tribunal of the Correctional Police of the Department de la Seine to appoint a day for arraigning M. Kerveguen. The 27th inst. has been fixed upon.

Letters from Algeria state that the famine still continues. Marshal M'Mahon had left for France with the intention of urgently demanding the sum of 1,000,000f. in aid of the distressed.

ITALY.

The Minister of War has decided to send home on unlimited furlough, upon April 1, the cavalry and field artillery soldiers belonging to the class of 1842.

In the debate in the Italian Chamber of Deputies on the motion for the abolition of the forced currency the Minister of Finance said that economy alone was insufficient to meet the present wants of Italy, and that if the proposed taxes were not voted before June a catastrophe could no longer be avoided; and that those who impeded the voting of the taxes would be responsible for the failure of the kingdom of Italy. The Budget of 1869, he said, showed a deficit of 198,000,000 lire, which, however, would be reduced 26,000,000 if the Chamber voted the taxes and the measures proposed by the Government. The debate is not concluded.

SPAIN.

Rumours are current of the proximate succession to power of a new Cabinet, under the leadership of Marquis Miraflores, who has been observed of late to pay frequent visits to the palace.

A new article of the Budget has been laid before the Congress authorising the Government to issue Treasury bonds to the amount of 500,000,000 reals. These bonds are to bear 6 per cent interest, and will be accepted by the Government as payment for the acquisition of property belonging to the State domains.

PRUSSIA.

It is semi-officially announced in Berlin that the Customs and Commercial Treaty of the Zollverein with Austria is to remain in force until the close of 1878, being subject to eleven months' notice of termination, otherwise to continue valid. The tariff contains no paragraph prohibiting the import or export or transit of any article of commerce from one country into the other. The stipulated facilities of traffic are based upon the free entry of raw products and the reduction of duty upon manufactured articles. Transit dues are altogether abolished.

AUSTRIA.

At the sitting of the Hungarian Delegation on Wednesday the debate upon the military estimates was proceeded with. Councillor Falke, the representative of the Government, replied in the name of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the censure cast by several previous speakers upon the Government for the policy it had pursued on the German and Eastern questions. He denied that the Government had ever desired or attempted to recover its former position in Germany. With the exception of the mission of Count Tauffkirchin, which was directly at variance with the peaceful efforts attempted, no sign had yet been displayed by Prussia of a wish for more intimate relations. With regard to the Eastern policy of the Government, the speaker stated that all the justifiable wishes and demands of the Christian subjects of the Porte had met with the most emphatic support from the Government. In the event of an armed enforcement of the demands made upon the Porte by any individual Christian population, the Government would not remain passive. It was essential to the preservation of European peace that the reforms in Turkey and the concession of the just desires of the Christian populations should be effected peacefully and without any interference on the part of a foreign Power. The speaker laid stress upon the impossibility of the Government remaining passive in the case of a one-sided active intervention of any Power in the affairs of Turkey; but he trusted that the policy intended to bring about the maintenance of peace would be crowned with successful results in this question also. He advocated the grant of the supplies asked by the War Ministry, because to deprive the country of the means of defence required as the indispensable minimum by the Government would not only nullify in advance the efforts made for the maintenance of peace, but would remove every chance of that success which it might otherwise hope would be achieved.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Budget for 1868 is, it is understood, about to be published. The revenue of the year is stated at about 480,000,000 roubles, and the expenditure at 475,000,000. Out of the latter amount 35,000,000 roubles are intended to be applied to railway works. As compared with last year's Budget, the revenue shows an increase of 35,000,000, and the expenditure of 30,000,000 roubles.

THE UNITED STATES.

As announced by Atlantic telegraph, Mr. Thaddeus Stevens and Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, on the part of the House of Representatives, impeached President Johnson, on Feb. 25, at the bar of the Senate for high crimes and misdemeanours. They demanded that the Senate should order the appearance of President Johnson to answer the charges. Mr. Wade, President of the Senate, thereupon appointed a select committee to consider the subject, consisting of Howard, Pomeroy, Trumbull, Conkling, Edmunds, Morton (Republicans), and Mr. Johnson (Democrat). The House committee instructed to prepare the articles of impeachment consists of six Republicans and one Democrat. The House has adopted a resolution prohibiting dilatory motions during the impeachment proceedings, and limiting to one day the debate on the articles of impeachment. President Johnson has been summoned to appear before the Senate Court on the 13th inst. The Select Committee of the Senate has adopted the rules of procedure for the impeachment of the President at the approaching trial. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will preside. The trial will be conducted with open doors, and the proceedings will commence on the day following the presentation of the articles of impeachment by the House of Representatives. President Johnson is to be summoned to appear in person or by counsel. In case of his non-appearance, the trial will proceed under the assumption that the defendant pleads not guilty. The final argument will be conducted by two counsel on each side, and closed by the prosecution. Two thirds of the votes of members of the Senate present will decide the final judgment.

Mr. Stanton continues to hold his position at the War Office. President Johnson has ordered a writ to be prepared requiring Mr. Stanton to show cause why he holds possession of the department.

Mr. Johnson had delivered a speech at a delegation of Conservatives from Baltimore. He declared that he would consider no personal sacrifice too great to bear in defence of the Constitution. He expressed a belief that the intelligence and patriotism of the people would yet rescue the country from the threatened ruin.

Both Houses of Congress have passed a supplemental Reconstruction Bill, providing that the majority of votes cast, instead of the majority of registered voters, shall decide elections under the Reconstruction Act. The bill will now be submitted to the President.

The Republican party have carried the elections in the State of New Hampshire.

General Geary, of Pennsylvania, had telegraphed to Senator Cameron that the Pennsylvania troops were ready to sustain Congress. Several organisations of the Grand Army of the Republic have placed their services for sustaining Congress at the disposition of General Logan, who is the commander of their order and also a member of the House of Representatives. It is reported that the Maryland militia have tendered their services to President Johnson. The Keystone Club, in Pennsylvania, and numerous other Democratic bodies are effecting military organisation. A Democratic military club is being organised at St. Louis, in opposition to the Republican military organisation known as the "Grand Army of the Republic." The New Jersey House of Representatives have passed resolutions inquiring, in view of the peril in which the country is placed, into the condition of the State armament. The New York police have seized the muster-roll of a society called the "Johnson Club," on the ground of a breach of the peace being threatened.

MEXICO.

Advices have been received from the city of Mexico to the 13th ult., stating that a plot had been discovered to assassinate Juarez in a theatre and rob the treasury. Several foreigners and military officers had been arrested.

HAYTI.

News received at New York from Hayti says that Salnave's troops had been defeated by the Cacos, and that the speedy downfall of the present President was anticipated.

GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL.—The ticket-offices at the Crystal Palace and Exeter Hall were on Monday besieged by applicants for vouchers for tickets. On the opening of the doors at ten o'clock there were upwards of seventy applicants waiting at the Crystal Palace, and nearly 200 at Exeter Hall and the stream was continuous until the time of closing at four o'clock.

THE MARQUIS OF AILESBUURY AND HIS TENANTS.—In consequence of a late re-valuation of land on the Marquis of Ailesbury's estate, the rental of the farms has been considerably increased (in some cases upwards of 35 per cent), and the terms of holding have been greatly altered. Provision has been made for quarterly instead of half-yearly payments, and for twelve months' notice to quit, to be given on either side. All game and rabbits are reserved to the landlord; and the tenant is to keep the buildings insured and in good repair, to pay one half the cost of labour for landlord's repairs, and one third the cost of outside painting. The new arrangements have given great dissatisfaction to the tenants.

GOSSIP FROM THE "OWL."—It is probable that Mr. Disraeli will recommend her Majesty to confer upon the Duke of Athole the Thistle that is vacant by the death of the Earl of Rosebery.—Although some of the contemplated peerages have been postponed, we have reason to believe that Sir John Lubbock, M.P. for Lincolnshire, is amongst those whom the Earl of Derby has recommended to the Queen for a seat in the House of Lords.—The leading promoters of the Suez Canal scheme have of late had forced on them the conviction that, as now designed, this undertaking will not fulfil its first object, and that it will have to be supplemented by mechanical agencies to enable the ordinary trade with the East to pass from one sea to the other.—We are given to understand that the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Poor-Law Board, lately held by Mr. Slater-Booth (now Financial Secretary to the Treasury), was offered to Lord Eustace Cecil, the member for South Essex, and declined, and that it will probably be placed at the disposal of Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.—The new wing of the Hospital for Women, Soho-square, which was visited on Tuesday week by her Royal Highness Princess Christian, will probably be opened in July next. It is hoped and believed that the ceremony will take place under the auspices of some member of the Royal Family. The peculiar and novel feature of this excellent institution is that one department is for the reception of patients who are able and willing to contribute in some degree towards their own maintenance.

EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN.—A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Working Men's Association was held, on Wednesday, at the association rooms, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, for the purpose, among other business, of receiving from Mr. Bass, M.P., a statement of his attempt to bring about an arbitration between the coal masters and miners of Church Gresley. Mr. G. Potter occupied the chair. The chairman said he regretted to have to announce the failure of the attempt made by Mr. Bass, at the request of the association, to bring about a settlement of the long-existing dispute between the coalmasters and their workmen in Church Gresley by arbitration. It would be recollected that the men had consented to refer the whole of the matters in dispute unconditionally to the arbitration of Lord Lichfield; but the masters, at a meeting just held, had positively declined arbitration. He had this day received the following note from Mr. Bass:—"My dear Sir,—Lord Chesterfield has written to me, on the part of the associated coalmasters of Church Gresley, a positive refusal to entertain the question of arbitration with their workmen.—Yours truly, M. BASS." Mr. Fairbairn then moved the following resolution:—"That, while working men are showing their desire to amend the rules of their trades unions, this committee deeply regret to hear that the coalmasters of Church Gresley district, after having looked out their men for joining the miners' union, have not only refused to receive any deputation from those men, but have also positively refused to submit the matters in dispute to the arbitration of the Earl of Lichfield, thereby precluding all chance of an amicable settlement of the long-protracted and lamentable dispute." Mr. Carter seconded the resolution, which was agreed to, and ordered to be transmitted to the miners' union and the Church Gresley coalmasters. The chairman reported that the arrangements for the conference between a certain number of large employers of labour in the staple and most important trades of the country and an equal number of representative working men, for the purpose of coming to a mutual agreement for the prevention of strikes and lock-outs were progressing most satisfactorily. It was proposed that the number should be twelve or fifteen on each side. Eight of the largest employers of labour in the country had already consented to take part in the conference, and replies of a similar character were daily expected from others who had been communicated with. The trade councils of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Glasgow had each been requested to appoint one delegate; and the iron, coal, cotton, shipbuilding, engineering, and building trades, and the Amalgamated Conference of Trades, had also been requested to appoint one delegate each. He hoped the Conference would meet within the next fortnight.

MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED.—A meeting of unemployed artisans and labourers connected principally with the trades carried on in east London took place in St. James's Hall last Saturday evening, but was very thinly attended. A shipwright named Roberts was called to the chair, and the first question discussed was the cause of the present lack of employment. This was not attributed to strikes and demands for higher wages than employers could afford, but the unrestricted competition of foreigners and the free-trade principles of the Manchester school were denounced as the main cause of the present distress among the working classes. A resolution was proposed and seconded to the effect that the meeting believed a large proportion of those who could not get work were thrown out of employment by the introduction into this country, without restriction, of foreign manufactured articles. This was opposed by Mr. Ashley, a plumber, who maintained that foreign competition had nothing to do with the present distress, and attributed it to the masters and smaller tradesmen being so overloaded with taxation that it was impossible for them to employ labour as they would otherwise do. The chairman then, without putting the first resolution, moved a second, to the effect that dormitories should be established where industrious working people could obtain temporary relief, in the shape of a bed or a meal, at a nominal charge. This resolution was not favourably received, several working men characterising it as an insult to them and their class generally. Some discussion ensued, in the course of which, at the invitation of the chairman, two or three men rose to tell the tale of their woes, for which many different causes were assigned; and ultimately several found themselves speaking together, and, as each insisted upon his right to priority, the greatest confusion prevailed, the chairman repeatedly warning the meeting that after a certain time the cost of the hall would be £5 per half-hour. This intimation, however, had not the desired effect; on the contrary, it seemed to increase the contest for the privilege of speaking, and brought forth two amendments to the first resolution, one of which was in effect that an income tax should be imposed upon all incomes above £500 per annum for the relief of the poor; and the other that the present distress arose from the "unequal and unjust laws and excessive and oppressive taxation, imperial and local, resulting from the legislation, administration, and misgovernment of the country." The chairman, after vainly endeavouring to maintain order, vacated the chair, informing those who were contending for a hearing that they would be responsible for the other cost of the hall, as the meeting was dissolved. The plumber was constituted president as the hall was being cleared, and under his auspices a resolution was carried which declared the evening's proceedings to be a mockery.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.

THE annual general meeting of the friends of this institution was held, at the London Tavern, on Tuesday afternoon, when the chair was taken by the Right Hon. H. T. L. Corry, the First Lord of the Admiralty. There was a large number of ladies and gentlemen present.

The chairman said he was very sensible of the honour which had been done him in asking him to preside at the annual meeting of this institution, which was as national in its character as it was beneficent in its object, and which so successfully accomplished its great and national work. The services of this society could not be overrated, especially in a naval country like England. Last year it was instrumental in saving as many as 1086 lives. Of this number 783 were saved by the boats under the immediate charge of the society, without the loss of a single life to any of the brave men who had formed the crews of the life-boats. He also learnt with the greatest satisfaction that since 1824, when the institution was first established, 17,000 lives had been preserved by its means. This fact was strikingly presented to his mind from the knowledge he had in consequence of his official position that this total of 17,000 was within a fraction the whole number of bona fide seamen at present serving on board her Majesty's Fleet. Its operations were not merely local, or even national. It was very pleasant to find that sailors who served under all flags participated in its benefits. The services of this society were appreciated as highly in foreign countries as at home. They saw this from the fact that, at the late Exhibition in Paris, the International Commissioners conferred upon it the highest prize of honour. This was a recognition of that tribute to the humanity of this country which he thought was as honourable to those who gave as to those who received. The report showed how great was the favour in which the society was held in its own country. Notwithstanding the commercial stagnation of last year, which had had some little effect upon its revenue, he was glad to find that the contributions had not diminished, but that they were still given in a very liberal spirit. The total amount of receipts last year was £39,805. Of this sum, £12,292 were in the shape of special donations, given for the construction of twenty-five life-boats. It was very gratifying, as a proof of the high estimation in which the society was held, to find that individuals gave such sums as £1000, £700, £600, £500, and £400. That these sums were not given for the sake of obtaining the praise of men was shown by the fact that two amounts (£1000 and £400) were contributed anonymously. It was not the less gratifying to find that these magnificent donations so modestly bestowed were the gifts of the gentler sex. They were both received from ladies. The magnitude of the society's operations appeared from the statement that it had under its charge nearly 200 life-boats. He could not refrain from paying a tribute to the bravery of the men who formed the crews of the boats, nor from expressing the hope that the society might long continue to enjoy its present public favour, and not only maintain its efforts but extend its sphere of usefulness.

Mr. R. Lewis, the secretary, read the report, which, in addition to the statistics given by the chairman, stated that the life-boat which had been awarded the grand prix d'honneur at the Paris Exhibition had, as a tangible expression of sympathy, been presented to the Life-boat Society of France, which had been founded and organised on the principles of the institution. During the past year one gold medal, twelve silver medals, thirteen votes of thanks inscribed on vellum and parchment, and £3189 had been granted for saving the lives of 1086 persons by life-boats, shore and fishing boats, and other means, on the coasts and outlying banks of the United Kingdom. In the same period twenty-seven life-boats had been built by the institution, which had now 186 boats under its charge. The cordial co-operation of the Board of Trade, of the officers and men of the coastguard service, of the local branch committees, and of our coast boatmen and fishermen was acknowledged. Since the formation of the society it has expended on life-boat establishments £197,000, and has voted eighty-three gold and 784 silver medals for saving life, and pecuniary rewards to the amount of £27,313. The total expenditure of the society, including liabilities, amounted to £40,026 9s. 3d. Twenty legacies of various amounts have been bequeathed to the institution during the past twelve months by different benevolent persons.

The committee, on reviewing the great and national work recorded in the report, had every reason to take courage and be thankful; they felt assured that, so long as the life-boat service continued to elicit the admiration of a large portion of the discriminating British public, sympathy and support would be extended to it.

S. R. Graves, Esq., M.P., proposed, and Captain M'Gregor seconded, the adoption of the report, which, with the succeeding ones, was carried unanimously.

Captain Arrow moved, and Admiral Sir William Hall seconded, a resolution which expressed the satisfaction of the meeting at the fact that the institution had saved so many lives in the course of the past year, and pledging itself to assist it in every possible way.

Upon the proposition of George Lyall, Esq., seconded by Captain Richards, R.A., Hydrographer of the Admiralty, a vote of thanks was given to the Board of Trade for the important and cordial aid it gives the institution, and also to the Commodore Controller-General, the Deputy Controller-General, and the officers of her Majesty's Coastguard, for the valuable assistance they have rendered.

Sir Francis Crossley, Bart., M.P., moved, and Admiral Evans seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., chairman of the institution, and the other officers of the society, as well as to the local committees and others.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

TRADE WITH IRELAND.—In the year 1867 shipping to the amount of 7,201,047 tons was entered inwards at ports of the United Kingdom, with cargoes, engaged in the intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, being an increase of 225,667 tons over the amount in 1866. The shipping cleared outwards with cargoes in this coasting trade in 1867 amounted to 6,208,383 tons, an increase of 81,979 tons over 1866. The total entrances and clearances in this trade in 1867 amounted to 73,714 vessels of 14,109,430 tons, being an increase of 3699 vessels and 307,646 tons over 1866; of 5291 vessels and 1,251,979 tons over 1865; and of 6134 vessels and 2,322,063 tons over 1864. In 1865 the tonnage engaged in the trade increased by more than 1,000,000 tons; in 1866 the increase was rather less—viz., 944,000 tons; in 1867, as was to be expected, there was a greater check to progress; but even in that year the shipping employed increased by 307,000 tons. It is almost entirely shipping belonging to the United Kingdom.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—The report of the director of the National Gallery states that in the year 1867 purchases were made from the collection of the late Sir C. Eastlake—one picture, the portrait of an old lady, by Rembrandt, for £1200; and nine others for £685. Gainsborough's portrait of Orpin, parish clerk of Bradford, Wilts, was purchased, for £325 10s., at the sale of Mr. Wiltshire's collection. Six pictures were purchased for £2172, during a journey on the Continent, with the concurrence of the trustees and the sanction of the Treasury. Among these pictures are the "Madonna and Child," "St. John the Baptist," and an "Angel," by Paolo Morando, purchased for £900; and pictures of the "Madonna and Child," by Sandro Botticelli, and of the "Archangel Raphael and Tobias," by Antonio Pollaiuolo, the price of these two being £1000. Captain Thomas Lambert and Mrs. Lambert presented to the National Gallery, in the year, sixteen pictures by Robert Smirke, R.A., Mrs. Lambert's grandfather. One of them illustrates a scene in "The Hypocrite"; the other fifteen are illustrations of "Don Quixote," eleven of them engraved for Cadell's edition of the work. Lady Eastlake also presented "St. Anthony" and "St. George," by Pisano, of Verona, formerly in the Costabili Gallery, at Ferrara. The number of visitors to the National Gallery, in Trafalgar-square, in 1867, open four days in the week, was 823,426—an average of 1333 a day; at South Kensington, open six days and three evenings in the week, 646,516.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

THE Abyssinian correspondence of our daily contemporaries published this week reaches to the 15th ult., at which date one gentleman writes from Agala, more than half way between Attegerat and Antalo. The latest telegraphic advices are to the effect that the head-quarters were, on Feb. 22, at a place called Adabaga, about fifty miles from Antalo, and that they are likely to remain there several days awaiting the arrival of more troops and supplies, which

have been delayed by the deficiency of the transport corps. Antalo had been occupied by an advance of 1000 men. The King had sent a friendly message to Mr. Rassam, assuring him that he was only keeping him till he should meet his countrymen. The meeting, it is hoped, not to be long delayed, for Sir Robert Napier was two days' march beyond Attegerat on Feb. 21. The transport service, upon which, more than upon anything else, the prospects of the expedition depend, has immensely improved. The Lahore Train and the Rawul Pindie Train, which have been in a state of efficiency from the moment of their arrival, are now to the front, without that encumbrance of Egyptian and Arab muleteers which until very recently hampered the movements of the army. The Punjab and north-west officers who are serving in these trains understand their inspectors and drivers, and are understood by them; and thus it happens that, while mules of the Bombay Train are being starved by their Egyptian and Arab drivers, those of the two trains we have mentioned receive their allotted food at the proper time and without waste.

The following official précis of the latest news from Magdala, and from the King's camp at Bet Hor, had been placed at the disposal of the correspondents:—"Information has been received of the prisoners at Magdala up to Jan. 17, and of those in the King's camp up to Jan. 9. All the prisoners were well. A detachment of troops left Magdala on Jan. 1, joined the King in his camp, and were to return to Magdala with about 400 prisoners. The imprisoned Europeans were among the number. Their leg-fetters had been removed, and handcuffs substituted, so that they might march. It is understood Mrs. Rosenthal would accompany them. There is nothing in the information received from which we are enabled to judge, either how far the King apprehends the present posture of affairs, or what course he intends to follow. The King was using every endeavour to get the road towards Magdala made, working with his own hands, and making the free Europeans help. He had made some slight progress, and had arrived at the bottom of the valley of the Djedda river. It is calculated he would reach Magdala by the end of February with his camp; though by abandoning the latter he could any day arrive there. The people of Dalanta continue submissive to him; but those of Dacont had again refused to submit to him. His soldiers were suffering from scarcity of provisions and transport. It was reported in Magdala that Memelek, the King of Shoa, had again set out for Magdala, better prepared to act against Theodoros than on his former visit. A detailed communication from one of the captives, sent to friends in England, and there published, has by some means reached the King's camp, and is in the hands of M. Bardel. Apprehensions are entertained that he will use it to the injury of the prisoners."

We make a few extracts:—

ABYSSINIAN SCENERY.

"The scenery for most part of the way is stupendously grand; the immense range of distance which the eye commands, and the colossal proportions of every feature in the various views which so suddenly open before one, render description an almost hopeless task. Wonderful must have been the convulsions of nature which produced this apparently interminable series of lofty hills and unfathomable ravines. A pen is impotent, though a brush may give some notions of such extraordinary scenes. Martin's great picture of 'The Last Judgment,' for instance, contains some conception of the Abyssinian rocks and chasms. At one point of our journey we turned a corner on the side of a hill, and beheld a panorama as sudden, as unexpected, and as astounding as the far-famed view of Mont Blanc and the Alps from the Jura Pass above Geneva. Sheer down at one's feet was a perpendicular precipice, nearly 2000 ft. in depth; the plain beyond, as white as sand and sterility could make it, stretched for miles and miles, and glistened in the dazzling sun till one's eyes ached again; beyond, and around, and in the intermediate space, towered the huge masses of disrupted rock, now jagged and abrupt, now smooth and round. The background was filled in by a chain of mountains surpassing in magnitude, extent, and fantastic outline the most far-famed views of the Bernese Alps; and what an atmosphere for a view! No fog, no mist, no haze, a brilliant sun, a cloudless sky, and every inch of Nature's canvas visible to the naked eye. I can imagine few scenes more impressive or more calculated to shadow forth the 'Infinite' to mortal minds."

A PRINCESS IN A TOWER.

"The palace at Attegerat, no longer inhabited, contains one spacious and well-proportioned apartment, which still retains signs of having once been roughly decorated, and there is no doubt that at one time this was the residence of some Tigré Prince. Tradition says that two Royal brothers quarrelled, and the younger seceded to a sort of Mons Sacer, on which he built the stone edifice above mentioned, and in which he successfully resisted the attacks of his outwitted and enraged relative. However that may be, it is now occupied by a native lady, whose husband is held in durance vile by King Theodore. She is surrounded by female attendants only, and lives a life of strict seclusion, refusing to receive any visitors on any pretext. Several men I know have made endeavours to penetrate only into the sacred precincts of the courtyard, but have invariably been rebuffed, and the female Cerberus, without exception, impervious to bribery. This unfortunate 'grass widow' must lead a sadly dull life. I do not know what the domestic occupations of the Shoho fair sex are likely to be, but her sole recreation, so far as I can judge, consists in sitting up in one of the dovecotes and taking a bird's-eye view of our camp and the surrounding country. Who knows what *bonnes fortunes* may be in store for General Napier if he returns this way, bringing back her injured spouse released? The lady is not handsome, certainly not fair, and what is vulgarly termed on the shady side of forty; but possibly her virtues may excel her charms."

WILD ELEPHANTS.

"A few wild elephants have been shot, and one officer in the Beloochees, Lieutenant Edwards, had, not long ago, a marvellously narrow escape with his life from an elephant near the Sooroo Pass. The brute actually got hold of him, and was only prevented from trampling or goring him to death by the steepness of the ground. A shot from Major Beville turned it just in time to save the life of Lieutenant Edwards; but he is said to have been so

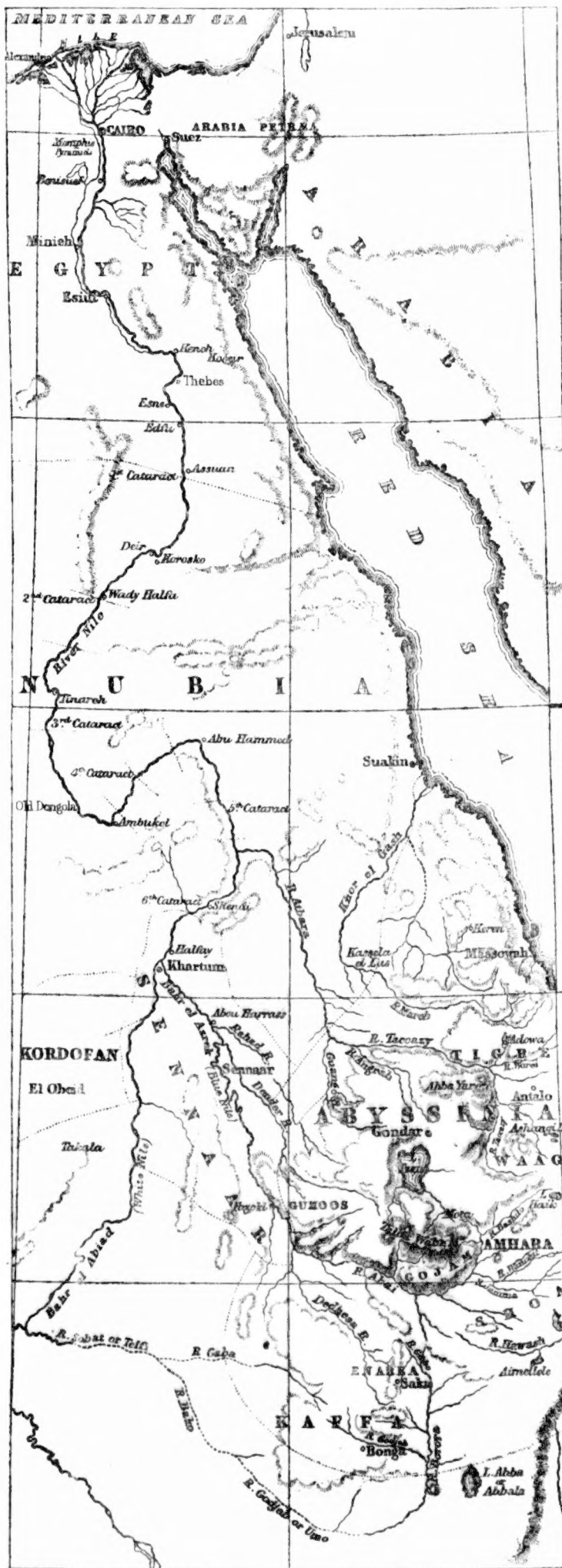
seriously injured as to have to give up all thoughts of remaining with the expedition, and returns home."

The *Times* thinks it unlikely that the army will leave Antalo till towards the end of March, and will take at least a month in passing through the 200 miles of mountainous region which lies between Antalo and Magdala. Supposing the main body of the expedition arrives at Magdala about May 1, the *Times* gives a week for the capture of the city and the release of the prisoners, and seven weeks for the return journey of 400 miles to Senafe. But it might be that the pass would be stopped by the heavy rains; and in that case it would be necessary to wait on the high land till they were over. If so, the first re-embarkation would hardly be effected before September. The Commander-in-Chief, meanwhile, is strenuously endeavouring to disencumber the force as much as possible. All followers not strictly necessary, and all baggage that can be done without, have been left behind.

ROUTES IN ABYSSINIA.

A BLUEBOOK under the above title has been published in accordance with an order of the House of Commons made on Nov. 26 last. It consists of a compilation from the writings of various travellers in Abyssinia, intended to show the character of the country, the roads by which it may be entered, and to give an account of the social and political condition of the people. This somewhat laborious work has been done under the superintendence of Colonel James, and the chief facts that were known about Abyssinia prior to the present expedition are gathered together in the bluebook before us.

If, as is stated, a company of sappers were sent out from England with no supplies of warm clothing, it was not because the



ABYSSINIA AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

necessity for such articles was not known at the War Office. All the travellers whose experiences are here related found that in the highlands the cold was often very severe, but none of them record so low a reading of the thermometer as our correspondents recently stated had been experienced. A temperature of 55 deg. appears to be the lowest which Bruce encountered at Gondar, and Major Harris found it 41 deg. at Ankobar, the capital of Shoa, 8200 ft. above the sea. Stendner, who accompanied the King of Abyssinia's army in 1862, noticed that the natives were glad to get under cover at night—the officers in tents, the natives in grass huts. The sappers appear to have been sent out under the influence of the following fascinating description of the highlands by Major Harris:—"Each fertile knoll is crowned with its peaceful hamlet. The cool mountain zephyr is redolent of eglantine and jasmine; and the soft green turf, spangled with clover, daisies, and buttercups, yields at every step the aromatic fragrance of the mint and thyme." Unfortunately, it is not always May in Abyssinia.

From Massowah (which lies 380 miles from Aden) to Magdala or Debra Tabor the distance is 350 or 400 miles, and to Gondar 300 miles. From Annesley Bay the distance is about fifteen miles less. According to the experience of travellers the actual difficulties of the journey commence in the highlands. The greatest obstacle of all, the Taranta Pass, may be evaded by taking the caravan road through Antalo and Socota; and this appears to have been decided on. No two persons spell Abyssinian names in the same way, and hence Colonel James acknowledges that he has found some difficulty in tracing certain places on the map. Debra Tabor is, or was, the residence of King Theodore, and near to it—at Gaffat—his European workmen lived. Adowa is the capital of Tigre, and the second city in the kingdom. Antalo is another of the principal towns of Tigre, but, according to the French travellers, Ferret and Galinier, it contained only from 200 to 300 houses.

The road from Antalo to Magdala is described by comparatively recent travellers. The routes vary, but they seem to correspond nearly in one feature—they are all rugged and beset with difficulties. Krapf speaks frequently of the inhospitality of the natives; but, as Colonel

James reminds us, he travelled with very little money, and that is a circumstance which does not always invite hospitality in the most highly-civilised countries. Travelling in April, Krapf wrote enthusiastically of some portions of his journey, especially of the country around Totola:—"The whole scenery is so beautiful that I cannot recollect ever having seen such a fine sight in Abyssinia. You can scarcely imagine that you are in Africa. The cool climate, the fresh and healthy air, the green plain, watered artificially by aqueducts from the river, the activity of the inhabitants in cultivation, the quantity of cattle grazing, and the multitude of travelling merchants whom you meet on the road with their goods—all these, and many other things, give the place a European appearance." But he warns the traveller to beware of certain troublesome tribes when Lasta and Agan are approached. They are called the Ana and the Raia Gallas, and they have never been subjugated by the Abyssinians, "on account of their mountains, which appeared from a distance to extend to the very sky." A remark made by Colonel James suggests means by which these and other impediments to the advance of an expedition may be overcome, or at least evaded:—"It must be borne in mind that there are a great many more roads, or paths, through these countries than those followed by travellers. The best of the roads, as Mansfield Parkyns says, are merely tracks; and it is probable that, wherever there are villages, communications exist between them. Travellers seem never to have found any difficulty in deviating from their course when political or other reasons compelled them to do so." In February, 1866, Dr. Beke went with his wife up the dry bed of the river Hadass, turning about ten miles below Totola by the pass of Shumfatto. From the head of Annesley Bay to the tableland of Abyssinia it is, he states, little more than twenty geographical miles as the crow flies, and at Halai they could hear the firing of cannon at Massowah. It took seven days to make the journey, and four to return. "Such are the difficulties and dangers of penetrating into Abyssinia," is Dr. Beke's commentary upon this exploit.

A considerable amount of information concerning the rulers and people of Abyssinia has been collected by Colonel



ABYSSINIA.



THE FAMINE IN ALGERIA: DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO STARVING ARAB WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

James. The government is feudal in character, each chief having absolute command of his own territory, subject to the condition that he makes regular presents to his superior, and follows him to war with as large a force as he is able to muster. The Emperor claims authority by virtue of his descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. This pedigree may not be strictly accurate, but it is known that the Abyssinians possessed a native copy of the Scriptures as early as the fourth century. The empire is divided into three principal provinces—Tigré, Amhara, and Shoa—and some minor ones, among them being Lasta and Wang. The Governors of all these provinces have been in rebellion against the King, and their feeling towards the new invaders of their country has not yet been definitely ascertained.

The Abyssinians are principally Christians of the Coptic sect. "They hold," we are told, "many of the tenets of the Roman Catholic faith, such as priestly absolution, fasts, worship of saints, conventualism," &c. Upon these observances they have strangely grafted some Mohammedan rites, and the trace of Jewish institutions is likewise perceptible. They are very superstitious, the priests have unchecked influence over them, and their Christianity is, as may be supposed from modern accounts, a mere name. The Emperors are crowned by the "Abuna," or head of the Church, who is consecrated by the Patriarch of Alexandria. Among the saints in the Abyssinian calendar, which is extremely extensive, are Balaam and his ass and Pontius Pilate and his wife. They fast so often that two thirds of the year are assigned to abstinence. The Bishop of Jerusalem, Dr. Gobat, describes them as "very immoral and licentious, priest-ridden and bigoted, but hospitable to travellers, and with no cruelty in their disposition."

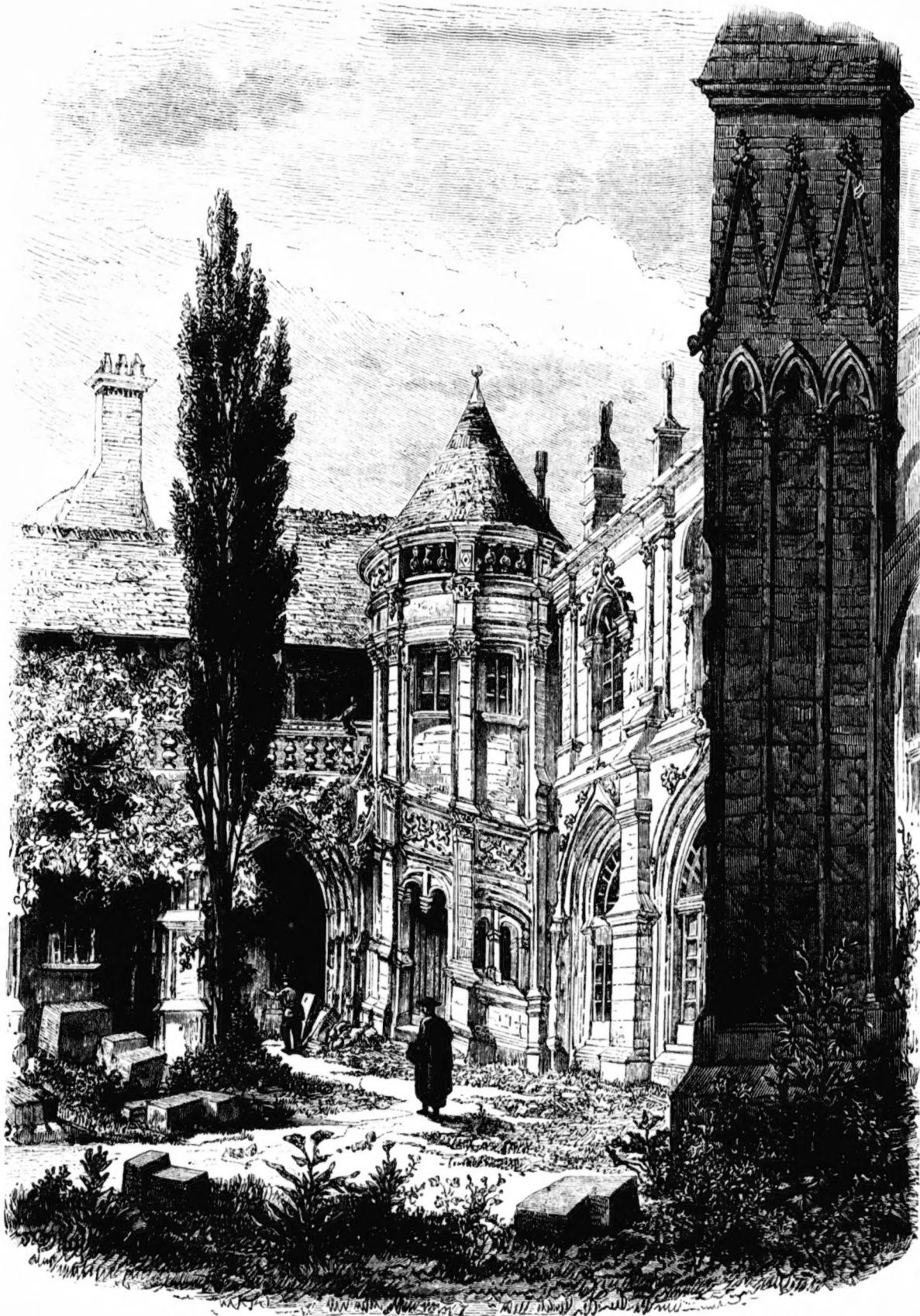
THE FAMINE IN ALGERIA.

THE terrible famine which has almost driven the Algerian people to despair lasts long, although great efforts have been made to mitigate its ravages. A population which, on the approach of a calamity, whether it be a bad harvest, a destructive convulsion of nature, a pestilential sickness, or any other large and widely spreading misfortune, resigns itself to fate without making any effort to avoid or to obviate it, is sure to offer the most distressing spectacle and to make any organisation for its relief extremely difficult. We have already given some account of the means taken for providing food and fire to the natives at some of the stations, and especially at El Cherif, where old people, women, and children had assembled

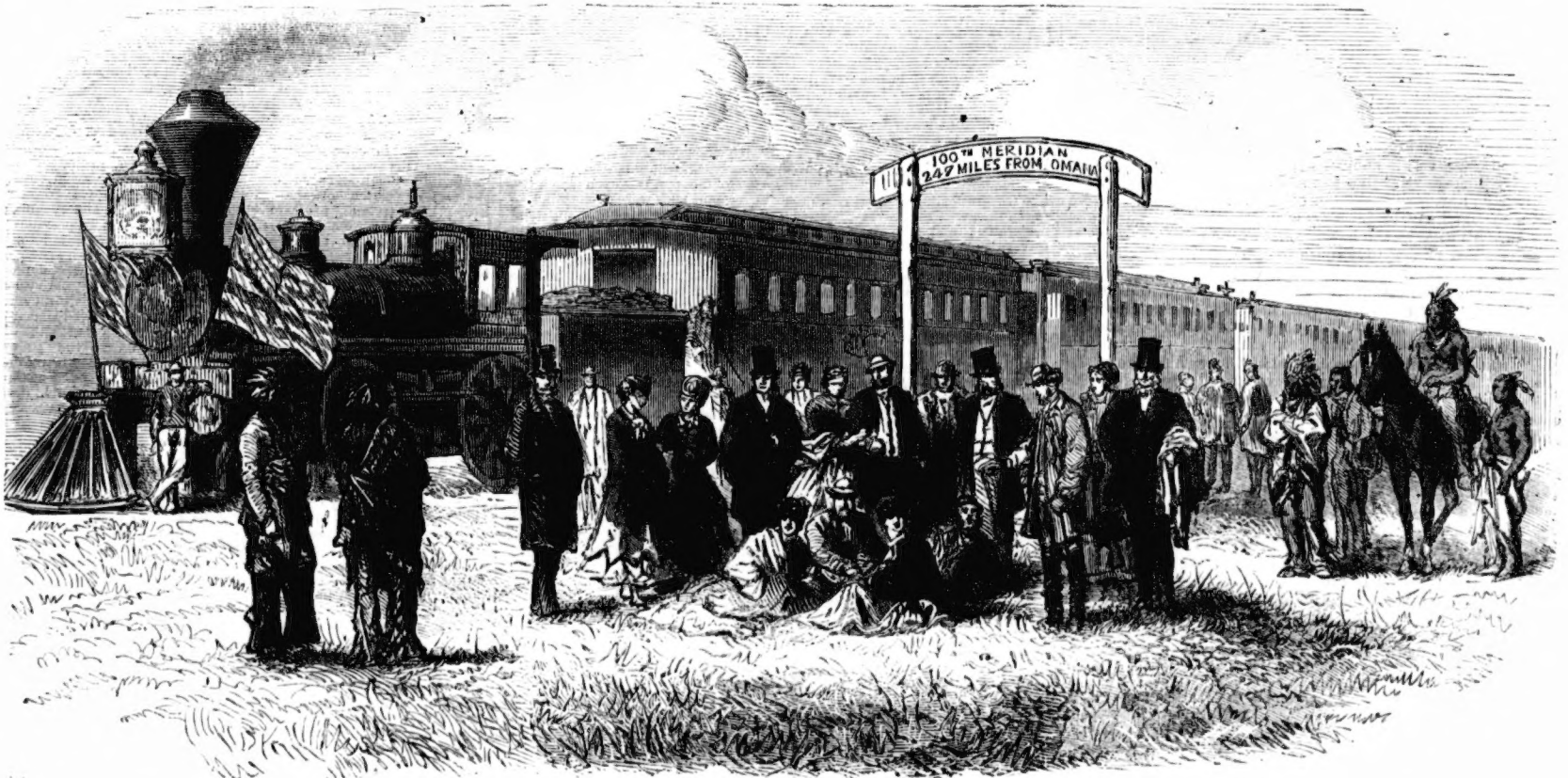
for warmth and succour. Our Illustration this week represents the operations of a charitable committee, under the direction of M. Bizet, the curé of Setif, who has opened a subscription-list for the assistance of the poor women and children who come to him for help. There is no need to expatiate on such a subject, surely. To look at the picture is enough. Women and children, famishing for want of food and fire, coming to find both, is a topic that requires no verbal explanation, whether the sufferers be the little burnouse-clad, dark-skinned children of the desert, or the street "Arab" who prowls, in rags and dirt, in the courts and alleys of the greatest and wealthiest city of the world.

CLOISTERS IN TOURS CATHEDRAL.

AMONG the numerous magnificent buildings to be found in France, its cathedrals hold the highest place, and among its cathedrals that of Tours may claim the character of being one of the most picturesque. It is distinguished by beauties of its own, which render it especially interesting to the artist at the same time that the marked character of its style makes it dear to the connoisseur and the archaeologist. It may be said, indeed, that the whole city of Tours is interesting enough, representing, as it does, the old division of the Visigoths, who gave their name to it, calling it Turones, a name which remained after it had been taken from them by Clovis, king of the Franks. It cannot be said, however, that there are any buildings of great interest except the cathedral and the remains of the church belonging to the abbey named after St. Martin of Tours, which was nearly destroyed during the Revolution. These remains consist of two lofty towers, one of which contains a remarkable clock. There are, it is true, an archiepiscopal palace, an hotel de ville, and a picture-gallery, and the market-place is decorated with a very beautiful fountain; but there are no buildings of real importance to the artist except the cathedral. The main street, terminating in the fine bridge that crosses the Loire, is, however, one of the handsomest thoroughfares in Europe, and there are several agreeable promenades about the city. But visitors find themselves coming back to the cathedral, dreaming over its Gothic tracery, its solemn lights and shadows, its glorious suggestions of mystic beauty; or escaping from the bustle of the streets to the stillness of its ancient cloisters, cool even in the hottest day of summer, and lying in unflickering shadow during the blazing noon of a fiery autumn.



CLOISTERS IN TOURS CATHEDRAL.



THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, AMERICA: THE 100TH MERIDIAN.—(SEE PAGE 172.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 323.

AN ISRAELITISH PREMIER.

THURSDAY, the 5th of March, is now a long time ago; but, nevertheless, the ceremonial of that evening—so interesting, so remarkable—must not be allowed to go unnoticed. First appearances of Prime Ministers—as Prime Ministers—on the Parliamentary stage are not common events; but the first appearance which we have now to chronicle, with all its marvellous circumstances, is not merely uncommon—it is unique. The like of it never occurred before, and will probably never happen again. It has taken many centuries—the whole length of our history, indeed—to get a member of the Jewish race into the position of head of the Government; and it is exceedingly improbable that for centuries to come England will see another member of that race in such a position. And here be it noted that Mr. Disraeli is not a concealed Jew. We have many such in England—men who have changed their names to hide their descent, and we have several of them in the House of Commons. But Mr. Disraeli does not conceal his race. On the contrary, he avows it and glories in it in all his books. All honour to him therefore. In the life of his father, prefixed to a new edition of "The Curiosities of Literature," he tells us that the family, whose name was not at first Disraeli, deliberately chose it that they might proclaim to the world that they are "of Israel," as the name imports. The First Lord of the Treasury signs his name Disraeli. We have his signature now before us, but his father signed D'Israeli. Mr. Disraeli does not belong to the old Jewish religious community. He professes the Christian faith, but he does not allow that he is "a converted Jew." The Christian religion is, he says, the Jewish religion completed; and, so far from allowing that he is converted to a strange faith, he says that the whole Christian world has been converted to his. And no doubt, if his first position be true—viz., that the Christian religion is the Jewish religion completed—and this no Christian will deny—then his corollary that the whole Christian world is converted to his faith must be true also, although the whole Christian world, probably, never saw the matter in this light until our present Premier revealed it. Mr. Disraeli, then, did not attempt to conceal his race when he began his political career; on the contrary, he openly avowed that he was a Jew—boasted of the fact, gloried in it; threw down the gauntlet to all other races, asserting that his is superior to them all, and will survive them all. Hear how bravely, defiantly, and even fiercely he trumpets forth his challenge:—"Pure races," he makes Sidonia say in "Coningsby," "of Caucasians (and he boasts that he is of the purest race of Caucasians) may be persecuted, but cannot be despised, except by the brutal ignorance of some mongrel breed that brandishes fagots and howls extermination, but is itself exterminated without persecution by the irresistible law of nature, which is fatal to curs." This was written in 1844, when he had been in Parliament seven years. Thus weighted, then, with all the odium attached to the Jewish name—and which, so far from attempting to mitigate, he thus openly defies and treats with scorn—he began his agonistic struggle with the pride and prejudices of perhaps the most exclusive, the proudest, and the most bigoted aristocracy in the world. What chances were there of even the slightest success? The odds were a million to one against him. There was at that time no speculator, however adventurous, who would have dared to back him against such a field, especially after his well-known and memorable failure in the House of Commons, when he had to sink back in his seat covered with disgrace, and, as men thought, extinguished for ever. And now he is Premier of England, and four Dukes, three Earls, two Lords, two Baronets, and four country gentlemen are in his Cabinet, proud to follow his lead, whilst behind him sits a compact party of gentlemen, most of whom are of the aristocratic class, and all of whom, with few exceptions, are prepared to give him their support!

HE ENTERS THE HOUSE.

Well, on that Thursday evening this conqueror in such a long and desperate struggle, this winner against such tremendous odds, marched into the House. It was exactly twenty-nine minutes past four by the clock when he appeared. There was an imposing array of members to receive him. The floor of the House was crowded, and the galleries were partially occupied. There has been some dispute as to the manner in which the new Premier was received. Some of the papers tell us that his reception was enthusiastic; others, that it was not so enthusiastic as might have been expected. To us the cheers from the Conservative benches seemed to be generous and hearty. Indeed, we do not remember that we ever heard louder cheering at such a time of the evening. We must take the time and other circumstances into consideration. The time to hear uproarious long-continued cheering is from eleven to twelve, when the members have dined and wine: you would hardly expect a gentleman to sing a song before dinner, and much less could you expect his friends to join uproariously in a chorus. So, the House never gets up its full cheering power till an hour or two after dinner. Then, remember that, important as the appearance of Disraeli in his new character was, there was nothing very exciting in it. We never have that "ringing, re-echoing sound" which the papers allude to but when the House is engaged in a desperate party struggle, on which the fate of a Government is depending, and every man on each side is wrought up to fiery excitement. The truth is, that dining and winning impart to us electricity, which the friction of fierce combat brings out, and then, of course, we have thunder and lightning. Our opinion is, that, considering that there had been no previous exciting struggle, and that it was before dinner, the First Lord's reception was as enthusiastic as he could expect. But whether his reception was or was not enthusiastic, this one thing is certain—the First Lord of the Treasury himself was not inspired that night. At the commencement of his speech—that part of it in which he eulogised Lord Derby—he dragged heavily, and at times faltered and stumbled. He seemed at once, as we thought, at a loss for ideas and for words; and the eulogy of Lord Derby, in fact, was a failure. When he had cleared this subject he got to be slightly more but never entirely himself. But this is not wonderful. He had to walk very cautiously; like, as one said, a cat over broken glass. Before him was a strong body of Liberals, with stretched-out necks and ears open, to learn what was to be the policy of the new Government; these he must not prematurely rouse to opposition by disclosing a too limited policy. Behind him were his Conservative supporters; their fears of a too liberal policy he must not excite. Once he made a slip; but he quickly recovered himself. "Our domestic policy," he said, "will be a liberal policy." Loud cheers from the Opposition greeted this announcement, whilst the Conservatives were silent and glum. Disraeli quickly saw his error; he had alarmed his supporters, and, turning slightly round, he promptly added, "a truly liberal policy;" and thereupon the Conservatives loudly cheered and the Liberals loudly laughed. "Not liberal in the sense in which those Radical fellows understand the words, but truly liberal—that is, as you know, conservative; eh, gentlemen, you understand!" This seemed to be the meaning of his correction. "I have always held, you know, that conservatism is the true liberal policy." This was adroitly done, but it painfully reminded us of the historic middleman to whom he in former years likened Sir Robert Peel. After the First Lord, rose Mr. Pleydell Bouverie, and for five minutes spoke vigorously and to the point; but he soon got in "wandering mazes lost," and destroyed all the impression which he had made. The right hon. gentleman threw a bait for a coalition, but he did not get a single rise. As soon as he sat down, the compact masses of members on each side loosened and broke up, leaving Sir George Bowyer to mander in his usual way to very few hearers, and at the close of his mandering the House quietly passed on to the bill for capital punishments in prisons.

MR. SHAW-LEFEVRE.

On Friday, March 6, we had a debate on that vexed question, the Alabama claims; and a better debate we have rarely heard in the House of Commons. We have called this a vexed question, but it is not anything like so tangled a skein as it was two years ago. Then it was looked at through the distorting refractory mist of

passion, and appeared through that medium to be quite insoluble. Indeed, there were then lively apprehensions that this was a gordian knot which would have to be cut by the sword; but, thanks to our Ministers and diplomatists and those of the United States, this question has been lifted out of the region of passion into the clear light of reason; and there is hope, and indeed almost certainty, that the question will be peacefully and satisfactorily solved; and we venture say that the able and statesmanlike debate of Friday night week will materially help its solution. The debate was opened by Mr. John George Shaw Lefevre, the member for Reading, son of good Sir John George Shaw Lefevre, clerk of Parliament, and nephew of Lord Eversley, our late Speaker. The speech of Mr. Lefevre was everything that could be wished—calm, clear, perspicuous, and exhaustive. It was rather a difficult subject to make plain. To one who has not watched, and followed, and tracked every step of the history of this question, plainness—or, rather, intelligibility—would seem to be impossible. There has been so much misrepresentation, such a constant fire of diplomatic artillery from both sides of the water, such misconstructions, misunderstandings, that the real truth appeared to lookers-on to be at first inextricable; but to clear insight, patience, and perseverance, nothing of this sort is really impossible. And all this Mr. Lefevre had brought to bear on the question; and the result was that he got clearly to understand it, saw the clue of it, and could track it all through the windings and apparent confusion; and, having a gift of quiet, lucid speech, he had no difficulty in making everything as plain to his hearers as it was to himself. Mr. Lefevre imported no passion into the debate. Once, though, he did step aside to hurl a bolt at the builders of the Alabama and other piratical vessels. Speaking of these, he said, "For myself, I regard the men connected with these vessels as the greatest malefactors of the day; and it is to be regretted that they were not brought before a criminal court." A few "Hear, hears!" greeted this strong expression, but no defiant replies. Mr. John Laird, the father of the builders of the Alabama, sat in his place, but said nothing. It was thought that he would formally reply to Mr. Lefevre, but he wisely held his peace. Times are changed since he boasted of his sons' exploits amidst thunders of Conservative applause.

THE EARL OF MAYO'S LONG SPEECH.

We have left ourselves but little time and space to notice the Irish debate, which began on Tuesday evening. But no matter, for really there was not much in that evening's proceedings calling for special notice. The debate was to have been a great debate, and, probably, before it shall come to an end the prophecy will be fulfilled; but as far as it has gone, whilst we are writing, it has not been a great debate. Big it has been, but not great; a very tiresome, sprawling, inefficient debate we should call it. It lasted nearly eight hours. The report of it, though some of the speeches are condensed, occupied fourteen columns of the *Times*. If you could put it in a furnace and get out all the slag the amount of genuine metal left would be very small. Mr. Maguire spoke two hours and five minutes, and spoke well, with all his old fire and swing of eloquence; but if he could but have concentrated his powers, the effect would have been greater. But what are we to say to Lord Mayo's wonderful effort? His Lordship spoke for three hours and a half, within a few minutes. Well, we can say this of it: It exhausted the subject as far as his Lordship knows it; it exhausted the patience of the House; and it so exhausted his Lordship's physical strength that at times we got to be apprehensive that the thin dribbling flow of words would cease and the speaker fall back fainting into the arms of his chief behind him. Three hours and a half! Think of it! Why a man might have gone down to Brighton, dined there, sat half an hour over his wine, and got back to the House within the time. Though the House was well attended whilst his Lordship was speaking, few heard all that vast speech. Some, lulled by the rippling tone, settled off to sleep; some went away and "liquored up" or smoked, and then returned. It was heard, as it was reported, by relays.

LORD ARTHUR CLINTON'S SPEECH.

There was some little anxiety to hear how Lord Arthur Clinton would acquit himself. He is young, had never spoken before; and it was generally thought that he had undertaken a task above his powers, and so when he rose the members hushed down into silence to hear how the young tyro would perform his task. His Lordship has not been long in the House, and is very little known. We suspect that Mr. Disraeli had never seen him before, for when Lord Arthur rose the First Lord put his glass to his eye, and stared for some minutes, as an astronomer gazes at a new star rising above the horizon. And now we have to say in a line, Lord Arthur acquitted himself unexpectedly and remarkably well. True, he read a good deal of his speech; but what matter? Better do that than fail.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat only half an hour, and read the Registration of Writs (Scotland) Bill the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Mr. LEFEVRE directed attention in a lengthy speech to what he termed the failure of the negotiation with the United States Government for arbitration of the Alabama claims. Lord STANLEY assured the House that he was most anxious to settle the dispute; for England could have nothing to gain by keeping the question open, but rather much to gain by bringing it to a close; and he believed that it was equally the wish, as it was palpably the interest, of both sides to remain on amicable terms. What we had to do was to state our case temperately and fairly, to do justice as far as we could, and to appeal to a corresponding spirit on the part of those with whom we were in controversy. Happily, as the case now stood, the controversy was reduced to the narrowest possible limits. Upon all doubtful questions of fact and law upon which the two Governments could not come to an agreement they were of one mind, so far as this, that they were prepared to abide the decision of any impartial arbitrator; and the whole question at issue was whether the English Government would consent to include in the reference the question whether we were right or wrong in recognising the belligerents? But with regard to that point, as at present advised, he could not for himself see what bearing the two things had upon one another. No human being could contend that at no time during the four years' struggle the Confederates had not become entitled to the rights and position of belligerents. If ever they were belligerents, they must have been so from the time of the battle of Bull Run, which took place in July, 1861, and the Alabama was not built till the April following. In the interval they had maintained an immense force in the field, and had won several battles. Throughout the negotiations he had treated the question as one of international law, the decision of which would be the creation of a precedent, and the ground he had rested upon was that that was irrelevant to the inquiry; that it was a question of policy, and not of legal obligation, and was therefore incapable of receiving a legal solution; and that the United States themselves, in the parallel cases of Hungary and Texas, had declined all responsibility for adopting a course similar to that which had been taken by the British Government. In recognising the Confederates as belligerents, this Government had simply declared, on May 13, that a certain state of things was civil war; and this was no more than a repetition of what Mr. Seward had asserted in official documents laid before Congress nine, twelve, and sixteen days previously. If negotiations had for a certain time been suspended, it should be recollected that the suspension had not been the act of the British Government. They had made their offer, and it had been declined. Political parties, he knew, ran high in the United States; but he could not imagine that any party would be so reckless or insensible to their own interests as to engage in a quarrel, possibly leading to a great and costly war, for the sake of enforcing in a particular way claims which it was in their power to settle, and possibly in their own favour, without appealing to war. Even if negotiations were not resumed upon the former basis, the means of bringing about an amicable settlement would not be exhausted, for there was still the alternative of a mixed commission, to which the claims of each side might be referred.

After some observations by Mr. W. E. Forster, Sir G. Bowyer, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Mill.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed his satisfaction with the statement of the Foreign Minister and the spirit of equity he had displayed in treating the question. He had no doubt that the country would indorse the policy that had been pursued.

MONDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of ARGYLL gave notice that on Friday next he should call their Lordships' attention to certain statements upon the subject of the Reform Act which had been publicly made by the First Minister of the Crown. Several bills were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CLERKENWELL EXPLOSION.

Mr. GATHORNE HARDY made a statement with respect to the Clerkenwell outrage. It will be remembered that the explosion took place on Dec. 13. Mr. Hardy states that, on Dec. 12, information was given to the Home Office that it was intended to endeavour to release Burke and Casey from the House of Detention by blowing down the wall of the exercise-ground. The very manner of the explosion was described. A barrel of powder was to be placed against the outside of the wall and a white ball thrown over the wall to indicate that all was ready. The information was given to the heads of the police, who expected the attack to be made by means of a mine, and never thought of any other means being adopted.

FINES AND FEES (IRELAND) BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the second reading of the Fines and Fees (Ireland) Bill. The object of the measure was to remove certain funds derived from fines and fees in Ireland to the Consolidated Fund. The bill met with general opposition, and though Mr. Disraeli himself came to the rescue, the measure had to be withdrawn to avoid rejection on a division.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

The Scotch Reform Bill was read the second time, after a comparatively short debate.

Mr. HADFIELD moved the rejection of the bill; but this motion was not persevered in.

Several of the Scotch members expressed their opinions in reference to the measure. All agreed to accept the suffrage, though Mr. Smollett made wry faces over it; nobody approved of the redistribution part of the bill, and the weight of the speeches was against the proposal to add to the number of members of the House.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House, during a short sitting of a few minutes only, read the Dublin City Steam-packet Company Bill the second time; passed the Court of Appeal, Chancery, and Dispatch of Business Amendment Bill through Committee; and read the third time and passed the Public Departments (Extra Receipts) Bill, and the Registration of Writs (Scotland) Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The preliminary business having been got through, Mr. MAGUIRE rose to move that the House should resolve itself into Committee, with a view of taking the condition and circumstances of that country into immediate consideration. The hon. gentleman drew a most gloomy picture of the present condition of Ireland, and asserted that the general feeling of the whole country was not only one of universal discontent, but of something which approached despair. The causes of the sentiment of alienation from England that animated the hearts of the Irish people were many, and Parliament was responsible for some of them, though not for all. It was greatly owing to the past, as well as the present; to the traditions of the people, and the legislation and the non-legislation of that House. He called upon the Government to declare what measures of relief they were prepared to offer. Do not let them tell him that they were to have a Royal Commission; the Irish people were not to be put off in that way. They had had a Commission in 1852, and again in 1855; yet the recommendations made had never been acted upon, and that fact had sunk into the hearts of the people, and was now treasured up as a sense of wrong. On the subject of the Irish Church Establishment, too, let them give a clear and specific explanation, without evasion, shuffling, or dodging. The question for the House was, what was to be done with the alien Church Establishment? The Roman Catholics were unanimous in asking for disestablishment and disendowment; but what should be done with the funds was a matter to be left to the wisdom of Parliament and the course of time. He further required that Ireland should have a fair share of the public expenditure, advocated the existence of a Royal residence there, and said that frequent visits of Royalty would, to a certain extent, contribute to a better state of things. It had been suggested that the Roman Catholic priests should be in the pay of the State; but he pronounced the idea cracked-brained, the product of a crack-brained theorist, which, if carried into effect, would be alike dangerous and fatal to religion and fatal to the peace of the empire. Another remedy which had been proposed was that Ireland should be colonised with the pauper and convict population of England. This he scouted as absurd, impracticable, and unjust. The proposal that the Government should buy up the railways, moreover, was not likely to be attended with a profit, or to realise the hopes of the promoters of the scheme, if emigration continued upon the same scale as heretofore and the circumstances of the people who remained were not improved. Lastly, with regard to emigration as a means of relief, he remarked that the people who now left the country did so with a bitter feeling of hatred against England; and the only way to make that emigration harmless was, in brief, to settle the Irish question upon broad principles. Let the British Parliament do what was right, and it would conciliate the farming classes and the large masses of people in the towns. It would have the Roman Catholic clergy at its side, and a blow would be struck at Fenianism in America that it would never survive.

The motion having been seconded, Mr. NEATE moved, and Mr. D. GRIFFITH seconded, an amendment which declared that the constant recurrence of impracticable resolutions and the proposal or suggestion of extravagant and impossible remedies are the great obstacles to the restoration of peace in Ireland and to the prosperity of the Irish people. The proposition, however, was withdrawn as soon as made, and

Sir F. HEYGATE proceeded to move that, before the consideration by the House of constitutional changes in the laws and institutions of Ireland, it was both just and expedient to inquire into the causes of alleged discontent and the best mode of remedying the same.

Mr. DAWSON seconded the amendment.

Lord A. CLINTON next moved his amendment, which was in the form of a series of resolutions.

The SPEAKER, on the conclusion of the noble Lord's speech, intimated that, as there was already an amendment before the House, that of the noble Lord could not be put unless the other were withdrawn.

Mr. O'BRIEN, who was to have seconded Lord A. Clinton's amendment, spoke in support of the views which it expressed.

The Earl of MAYO, remarking that he had only to tell a plain, unvarnished tale, and reply to some of the statements which had been put forward by gentlemen who claimed to represent the people of Ireland, at once proceeded to dispose of the assertion that to British legislation was to be traced the existence of the Fenian conspiracy. Pointing to Australia and other colonies where immense numbers of Irishmen were settled, he challenged contradiction when he said that among them the hostile feeling towards England which characterised the American-Irish was nowhere to be found. This was even the case with Canada, which was in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fenian organisation, and where the Irish portion of the colonists were most loyal to the British Crown. In Ireland, also, the feeling of disloyalty and disaffection was confined to a lower class than any who had taken part in previous disturbances, whilst the movement was directed by men whose chief distinction was that they had held subordinate offices in the American army. Further, it was not in the agricultural districts, but in large towns, and especially those in the south of Ireland, that the mass of the people were tainted with Fenian principles. In fact, the real strength of the conspiracy lay not on this, but on the other side of the Atlantic; and he believed that if the connection between America and Ireland could only for a short time be cut off, Fenianism would totally disappear. Passing on to the policy of the future, Lord Mayo intimated that he would next week bring in a land bill which, besides providing an easy means of securing compensation for improvements, would increase the leasing powers of limited owners, and would also contain provisions for the encouragement of written contracts. In addition to this, on Monday or Thursday, he would bring in the Irish Reform Bill, and he hoped soon (for the Commission to which the subject had been referred was expected to report before Easter) to submit a measure for the more efficient management of the Irish Railways. The question of education was next touched on; and, first, as to primary education Lord Mayo said it had been referred to a Royal Commission, which probably would speedily be able to suggest modifications of the present system, removing all objections, and setting the controversy at rest for ever. As to the University question, it was not intended to disturb the existing arrangements of Trinity College or the Queen's University; but as neither of these institutions commended themselves to the great mass of Irish Roman Catholics, it was proposed to confer a charter on the Catholic University, the organisation of which he explained at length. Parliament would be called on to furnish an endowment for this University, but for the present no endowment would be asked for colleges in connection with it. Finally, Lord Mayo dealt with the Irish Church question, which he reminded the House was now being inquired into by a Commission appointed at the instance of Earl Russell. That Commission would probably report in the course of this Session, and the Government, therefore, held it to be impolitic to deal with this question immediately. That there was any pressing haste he denied, for if the Church were overthrown to-morrow there would not be a Fenian the less, nor had anybody yet suggested a feasible mode of disposing of the revenues. But neither on this nor on the land question could a satisfactory settlement be obtained by confiscation. Policy and justice might demand the equalisation of Church establishments in Ireland, and Protestants were not disinclined to consider any fair proposal for that purpose. But it must be done, not by a levelling

but an elevating process; and the destruction of the Irish Church would not conciliate one enemy, while it would alienate many friends.

The debate, on the motion of Mr. HORSMAN, was adjourned until Thursday.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
CHURCH RATES.

The House had a thorough church rates day. Mr. Hardcastle, whose bill stood first, postponed it for a month. Then the second reading of the Church Rates Regulation Bill was moved by Mr. Hubbard. The object of the bill, as he described it, was to relieve in a simple and unobjectionable manner from payment of church rates conscientious Dissenters, and to afford relief also, with reference to church rates, to members of the Established Church in parishes, at the same time allowing them, if they should think it necessary, to raise money for the maintenance of the Church in the districts consistory, to the parishes. Sir S. Northcote did not oppose the second reading, praising the bill. Mr. Hubbard agreed to postpone the second reading of his bill to the day fixed for the second reading of Mr. Hardcastle's bill. Mr. Gladstone objected to the reading of Mr. Hubbard's bill the second time; and, after some discussion, the motion for the second reading was postponed to April 8. The House then went into Committee on Mr. Gladstone's Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Bill. A division took place on the first clause, which provides for the total abolition of compulsory church rates, with the following result:—For the clause, 167; against it, 30; majority for the clause, 137. The principle of the bill having been thus affirmed by a large majority, the Committee proceeded to discuss the remaining clauses and some verbal amendments thereto. They were finally agreed to, and the bill passed through Committee.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved the second reading of his Tenure of Land (Ireland) Bill, which was opposed by Lord St. Leonards, on the ground that the matter should be deferred till the Government proposals were before the House. The bill was read the second time and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

MR. HORSMAN, in continuing the debate on the above subject, thought the noble Lord, in stating the Government policy, had told them that their policy for the Church was inaction, for the land question pre-emption, for the educational question retrogression. He thought it would be better if the Government were to put themselves under commission, as they had the whole of Ireland. He considered there was not any principle in the measures they had proposed, and that, in fact, their policy was simply a hand-to-mouth one. He complained that the proposed charter for the Roman Catholic University was simply to gain the support of the Irish members, who would, however, be too wise to be taken in by such an attempt. The present proposal would do away with all the good which had accrued to Ireland from the previous policy of Lord Derby. The laity of Ireland had willingly accepted the non-sectarian principle of instruction, although the clergymen of all denominations had opposed it as strongly as possible. He traced the large yearly increase of the scholars in the national schools in spite of this ecclesiastical opposition, and argued from that fact the popularity and success of the mixed system amongst all denominations. In these schools Protestant and Roman Catholic children were educated together, and formed friendships which lasted, perhaps, for their lives. They must oppose the thin edge of the wedge being inserted to do away with this system. With respect to the speech of the noble Lord he never heard any Ministerial statement which gave such universal disappointment. It was not his fault, but the fault of the Government, who had no satisfactory policy on the subject. Accordingly the noble Lord had given them three hours of statistics to show how prosperous Ireland was, and how she needed nothing to be done, while, in reality, the Constitution was suspended in the country. The Government had had a great chance of dealing fairly with Ireland, as Parliament were favourable, but they had rejected the opportunity. He contended that the noble Lord's speech contradicted itself on the subject of the condition of the country. In Ireland patriotism was too often hatred of England and the Government, as well as love of the country. There was no doubt, as the member for Cork had said, that the ills of Ireland had been caused by the faults of English rule. Because England was a Protestant nation, with a Protestant Establishment, we decreed that Ireland should have a Protestant Establishment, although it was not a Protestant country. Did we make them loyal, peaceful, or grateful by imposing on them the penal code and the Protestant Church? No; as long as that Church was a favoured Church, there could neither be peace nor contentment, and it must not be maintained.

Mr. CORRANCE supported the views of the Government.

Mr. LOWE dwelt upon the unhappy sectarian differences which existed in Ireland, and to which he ascribed much of the discontent which prevailed. He denied that Ireland was oppressed by bad legislation or that England dealt unfairly by her, and urged that, so far as financial affairs were concerned, the balance of advantage was rather in her favour. The great object to be accomplished in Ireland was to raise the mass of the populace above the daily wants of life. To do this capital ought to flow into the country, and manufactures and industry ought to be introduced. Confidence, however, was first required; and it would have come long ago but for the friends of Ireland who were always proclaiming her wrongs and exaggerating her condition. The right hon. gentleman then denounced the suggestions of Mr. Mill, Mr. Bright, and others as wild theories and visionary expedients, calculated to lead only to anarchy and separation.

Mr. MILL supported the plan he had already set forth in the pamphlet he had published, the main feature of which was that the Government should purchase up the land of Ireland and lease it out to the tenants under certain conditions.

Mr. Secretary HARDY, on the part of the Government, denounced the scheme of the hon. member for Westminster.

On the motion of Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, the debate was adjourned until to-morrow (Friday).

A SAD CASE.—An inquest of a very painful nature was held on Tuesday on the body of a child aged two days. The father of the child said that he had been in the Army ten years, and had served in India and the Crimea, and that he was finally discharged with a pension of 7d. a day for two years and a half. He brought the seeds of consumption with him out of the Army, and he was now nearly in the last stage of that complaint. He had learned shoemaking for a living, but had never been able to earn more than 7s. or 10s. a week, and latterly he had been prevented by illness from earning almost anything at all. When he left the Army he had three children. On Friday his wife gave birth to another, which she was too emaciated to suckle. On Sunday morning she woke him and said, "The baby is stiff and dead." The doctor reported that the child died from jaundice, and a verdict to that effect was returned.

A SCOTCH SCHOOL.—Mr. R. D. Fearon, who, as an assistant commissioner engaged in the recent inquiry into the state of middle-class schools, visited the Scotch burg (secondary) schools, gives a sketch of a schoolmaster and school as seen by him at work; it may be premised that most of the masters in these schools are graduates of a Scotch university, and the Scotch have a natural aptitude for teaching:—"The school is crowded with sixty or a hundred boys and girls, all nearly of an age, seated in rows at desks or benches, but all placed in the order of merit, with their keen, thoughtful faces turned towards the master, watching his every look and every gesture, in the hope of winning a place in the class and having good news to bring home to their parents at tea time. The *dur* is seated at the head of the class, wearing perhaps a medal; the object of envy and yet of pride to all his fellows; fully conscious both of the glory and the insecurity of his position; and taught, by the experience of many falls, the danger of relaxing his efforts for one moment. In front of this eager animated throng stands the master, gaunt, muscular, and time-worn, poorly clad and plain in manner and speech, but with the dignity of a ruler in his gestures, and the fire of an enthusiast in his eye; never sitting down, but standing always in some commanding position before the class; full of movement, vigour, and energy; so thoroughly versed in his author or his subject that he seldom requires to look at the text-book, which is open in his left hand, while in his right he holds the chalk or the pointer, ever ready to illustrate from map or black board, or, perhaps, flourishes the ancient 'faws' with which in former days he used to reduce disorderly new comers to discipline and order. The whole scene is one of vigorous action and masterly force." But outside the schools there is a power at work which supplies them with life and vigour, and this is the extraordinary interest which the parents take in the progress of their boys. "What place in the class to-day?" Mr. Fearon found to be the first question asked when a boy went home; and then would follow questions as to what he had read; whether such a neighbour's son was above or below him, and, if above him, why so; how he had gained, and why he had lost a place; and did he think he had a chance of ever being *dur*—every word showing the importance which the whole family attach to his success. In short, the schools are practically in the hands of the parents; they pay the full cost of the teaching, and the system in operation gives them the power of controlling the instruction, and a strong sense of responsibility is thus fostered in their minds. The result is that they give their hearts to a task which, in many respects, none others can do so well. The commissioners remark that the system is the growth of nearly three centuries, and it would not be possible to transplant it exactly as it stands; but that to catch something of the same spirit would undoubtedly be worth much.

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THE IRISH CHURCH: HER EXECUTIONERS AND HER HEIRS.

"DOOMED people live long." So says the proverb, and we are not disposed to disagree. Condemned institutions are also gifted with a tendency to longevity. But perhaps the reason why some doomed persons and institutions are allowed continued existence, is because no one cares to be their executioner and nobody has an immediate interest in their death. That, however, is not the case with the Irish Church Establishment. The conviction that her days are numbered is rapidly becoming general; and as there are numerous hands eager to pull her down, and many persons anxious to be her heirs, the fulfilment of the sentence is only a question, in all probability, of a short time. The main points of difficulty in the matter are, who shall be the executioners and who shall succeed to the forfeited inheritance.

Of course, nobody thinks of abandoning the revenues of the Irish Church to whoever may be able to grasp them; they are too valuable for that. And as to the hand that shall deal the fatal blow, all political parties seem to have the will, and yet are somewhat afraid to strike. Earl Russell proposes a redistribution of Church funds—Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and so forth, sharing in proportion to their numbers; but the Roman Catholics refuse the bribe, and English Nonconformists protest against the project. The Liberals who follow Mr. Gladstone's leading are understood to have a plan for dealing with the Irish Church, the nature of which may possibly be revealed this week, but it is still *in nubibus* while we write.

Mr. Disraeli has nothing to propose—at present; he intends to wait for the report of the Commission now engaged on inquiring as to the equity of the present system of distribution—a matter that seems to have little to do with the question whether the Church shall continue to exist at all or not. A simple re-arrangement of incomes among the present holders of benefices and their successors will not meet the demands of the case. It matters little whether one Rector gets too much and another too little, whether a Dean can exist on £2000 a year or a Bishop is starved on £5000, when the point in dispute is—shall Bishops, and Deans, and Rectors be longer tolerated as State-paid or State-supported functionaries? The Church herself is the grievance complained of, and the only effectual reform is to reform her out of existence altogether—to abolish her entirely as a political institution. Mere tinkering of her internal defects will not serve. And so it is difficult to see what good can come of the existing Irish Church Commission and its report, or in what way it will answer Mr. Disraeli's purpose. But, perhaps, the right hon. gentleman is only "playing for time" till he can sufficiently "educate his party"—there is no explaining away of that phrase—or till the necessary "pressure" is applied to enable them to see the propriety of doing the job lest they should be forestalled by others. Lord Mayo, on Tuesday night, did indeed hint at a project for instituting "religious equality" in Ireland; but that was to be done by raising the Catholics and other sects to the position of the Establishment, not by "pulling down" the latter to the level of the former. This idea, of course, presupposes that the Church is to retain all her property, and that funds are to be found for endowing the other sects. But where is the money to come from? It is calculated that from three millions to three millions and a half sterling would be needed. That sum must be raised by taxes; and who are to pay those taxes, which would be equivalent to an addition of from 3d. to 3½d. per pound to the income tax of the three kingdoms? Not the people of Ireland. They would not be benefited by an old grievance being retained and a new one created; for it would be as great a grievance for the Roman Catholics to be called upon to support Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Independents, and so on, in addition to their own clergy, as it is to maintain Episcopalians. Nor could the funds be drawn from the Imperial exchequer; for no order of men in England and Scotland would consent to be heavily taxed for the support of Roman Catholicism in Ireland. This notion, therefore, may be dismissed at once as impracticable.

Mr. Maguire and the "extreme men" are the only parties that seem to have a clear notion of what they want done. They are prepared to kill the Irish Church at once, or at least to provide for her dying a natural—and inevitable—death; though it might be necessary to fight for her property afterwards. And a very pretty quarrel it is likely to be—quite as heady a fight as any recorded by the poets for the body and armour of a fallen hero. And that reminds us that there is another party to the contest—the members of the Irish Church and their adherents—whose

motto is "No surrender!" and who, no doubt, will do their utmost to retain the loaves and fishes now in their possession. But, however stout may be their resistance, they must necessarily fight a losing battle. The anomaly of the Irish Church is too great, its injustice too galling, and its inefficiency too glaring, for successful defence.

The questions, consequently, again recur—who shall abolish the "Church of England in Ireland?" and what shall be done with her effects? The first query we shall leave time to answer; like Mr. Maguire, we care not from which side of the House the executioner shall come. The work will be done, we may be assured of that, when "sufficient pressure"—if we may, without offence, use another of Mr. Disraeli's phrases—is brought to bear upon the workmen. The Irish Church is doomed; and a deathman will no doubt be forthcoming in due time, perhaps in the person of the Premier himself. He has done as strange things in his time. The "pressure" is all, probably, that is needed.

But as to the appropriation of the estate, there need, we think, be little difficulty. Church property was given at first for two purposes, both of which it has long ceased to subserve—namely, to feed the poor and instruct the young. Let the original idea, then, be reverted to, and the funds of the Church be devoted to the relief of the poor and the promotion of education—as they become available, that is to say; for of course existing interests must be respected, and incumbencies be allowed gradually to lapse as they become vacant. If the idea be once accepted that the Irish Establishment must go, there can be no reasonable objection to the application of the funds in the way we have mentioned. The poor need relief, the young lack instruction; and funds for both purposes are difficult to get. The Church revenues, when fully available, will be ample for each object, nobody will be wronged, and the whole community of Ireland will be benefited. Need more be said about the matter? Given the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church, can her property be applied to better uses than those we have named? We think not.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO IRELAND.—During the Easter holidays the Prince of Wales will go for ten days to Ireland. His Royal Highness will be the guest of Lord Abercorn; and at the same time the Duke of Cambridge will share the hospitality of the Earl of Mayo. The ribbon of the Order of St. Patrick which was in possession of the Prince Consort, and which has not been conferred since his death, will be bestowed on his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The installation will be distinguished by unusual pomp, and the ceremonial will include a public procession through the streets of Dublin.

MR. RASSAM AND HIS RECEIPTS FROM KING THEODORUS.—In a letter addressed by Brigadier-General W. L. Merewether to Lieutenant-General Sir R. Napier, Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian field force, and dated "Camp, Zoolia, Jan. 18," the former says:—"A discussion took place in Parliament regarding the money received from King Theodorus by Mr. Rassam. In justice to the latter gentleman, I have the honour to state that the money so received was at once credited by him to Government, and appears so in his accounts, with a foot-note that 6800 dols. were taken back from him by the King when the mission was imprisoned in July, 1866."

A NAIVE CONFESSION.—A couple lately presented themselves at church to be married. The clergyman, perceiving that the bridegroom was drunk, refused to perform the ceremony, and after administering a reprimand to him, told the bride to return with him the next day. The couple did return the next day, when the bridegroom appeared to be even more drunk than he had been the day before. The clergyman then addressed the bride, and asked her how she could think of uniting herself to such a confirmed sot. The girl replied, with touching naïveté, "Willy is not a confirmed sot, Sir; but when he is sober he does not want to marry me, so I cannot help bringing him here drunk if I am to marry him at all."

EAST-END RELIEF COMMITTEE.—On Monday the Executive Relief Committee for the East-End District met at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. At their separation, on the previous week, they had barely a balance of £100 in hand; but there had since been received £500 from an anonymous donor, £900 from Miss Coutts, and nearly £150 more from about fifty other persons. The committee, who appear rather desponding, regard the absence of more extensive contributions from the general public as an indication that their administration must be brought to a close, and eventually agreed to adjourn for a fortnight. A report of the proceedings appears in another column.

PENSION TO LADY BREWSTER. A pension of £200 per annum has been conferred on Lady Brewster, in consideration of the scientific labours of her distinguished husband. This graceful act of Government has been announced to Sir James Simpson, Bart., of Edinburgh, in the following letter from the Prime Minister:—"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, March 5, 1868. Dear Sir James,—I have much gratification in informing you that her Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant a pension of £200 per annum to the widow of Sir David Brewster, in recognition of his eminent services to science.—I have the honour to remain, dear Sir James, yours faithfully, B. DISRAELI." It has been resolved, at a meeting of influential gentlemen held in Edinburgh, to erect a statue of Sir David Brewster to commemorate his scientific discoveries.

THE EDUCATION OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.—Mr. Disraeli has published the following letter in reference to some remarks made in the House of Lords by Earl Russell, on the 4th inst.:—"Earl Russell observed last night, in the House of Lords that I 'boasted at Edinburgh that, while during seven years I opposed a reduction of the borough franchise, I had been all that time educating my party, with the view of bringing about a much greater reduction of the franchise than that which my opponents had proposed.' As a general rule, I never notice misrepresentation of what I may have said; but as this charge against me was made in an august assembly, and by a late First Minister of the Crown, I will not refrain from observing that the charge has no foundation. Nothing of the kind was said by me at Edinburgh. I said there that the Tory party, after the failure of their bill of 1859, had been educated for seven years on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, and during that interval had arrived at five conclusions, which, with their authority, I had at various times announced, viz.:—1. That the measure should be complete. 2. That the representation of no place should be entirely abrogated. 3. That there must be a real Boundary Commission. 4. That the county representation should be considerably increased. 5. That the borough franchise should be established on the principle of rating. And that these five points were accomplished in the Act of 1867. This is what I said at Edinburgh, and it is true.—B. DISRAELI, Downing-street, March 6."

AGRICULTURE IN YORKSHIRE.—Not for many years have the prospects of the Yorkshire farmers been more promising than they are at present. All outdoor work is unusually far advanced, and has been got through with an ease that has operated greatly against the labourers, who for three months back have had very little work. The autumn ploughing was very easy, the land being scarcely a day unfit for working, and was in excellent order for the reception of the seed wheat. This germinated rapidly, and, favoured by the season, acquired an unusual degree of vigour, which the gales of January and February have not cut down to do any harm of consequence. Everywhere winter wheat is spoken of as being fresh, green, and thickly planted, promising to "tiller" well, and give thick vigorous crops. In the lowlands there has been only one flood of consequence, against seven or eight last year. Thus the wheats look well, and the pastures have flourished almost unchecked throughout the entire winter, and have afforded a "pleasant bite" to the Irish cattle at a time when most desired. The turnip crop has suffered little or nothing, and at the present time is good, plentiful, and very cheap, and to this may in some measure be attributed the rise in value of grazing stock. Although yet early, a very large breadth of oats is already showing, much of the crop having been put in last month. The plough, in fact, is kept close up to the sheep on the turnip lands, and the whole area of the barley lands promises to be ready before the main season for sowing. If from the present the future could be foretold, farmers have to enjoy a slice of remarkably good fortune. The preparation of the soil for the turnip and root crops has been got forward, and there is likely to be a considerable breadth of potatoes planted, the remarkably high price encouraging the growth of the crop, of which seed tubers are not so scarce as the table sorts, the last year's crop having run small and the largest being most diseased. The seed peas are reported to have opened so far tolerably free from disease. To the present prospect pictured there is also a stiffening in the price of wool and correspondingly in sheep.

THE PYRAMIDS, SPHINX, AND CATACOMBS OF EGYPT.

THE PYRAMIDS.

THESE structures appear in considerable number, varying in size, in materials, and in architecture, between Cairo and Meduun; but those nearest Cairo, called the pyramids of Geeza, are the most worthy of notice; four of which, though different in magnitude from each other, are particularly distinguished from the rest by their bulk. The faces of each of these are placed fronting the four cardinal points; and they are constructed so that a line, drawn from north-east to south-west, would pass through the base of each. The least of the four is to the south-west, and the others increase in size; each of the persons by whom they were built resolving, no doubt, to eclipse his predecessor, till the bulk and expense of the last precluded any attempt to outvie it; if the circumstances of the times did not become less favourable to the waste of so much toil for a purpose of so little advantage even to the single mortal for whom it was intended.

On approaching the pyramids from Geeza, the first that offers itself is the largest, standing on a hill of rock, about 100 ft. higher than the plain below. Its base is buried in the sand, that now rises in a slope on the north side within two courses of the entrance, which was formerly midway between the base and the summit. This, as well as the others, is built of a stone very little harder than chalk, whitish when scraped, but become by exposure to the air of a yellowish-brown hue, being the same with the rock on which they stand. It was originally cased with a different stone, as appears from concurrent testimony of ancient authors and from this circumstance, that the courses of stone which give the appearance of steps externally are neither uniform in size, as they vary from the height of near 5 ft. to little more than two, nor diminishing with regularity, one or other of which no doubt would have been the case had it not been intended that they should be concealed. A considerable portion of the casing of the second pyramid still remains at the top, and by the holes that are visible in many places where it is removed, it has evidently been destroyed by the hand of man. Many authors say this casing is of granite, but it is of a whitish tint very unlike granite, either red or grey; and the summit, which is decayed by time—for no man can climb up the ashlar facing, is not rounding off, as granite would decay, but stands up in points. All the other pyramids are stripped of their facings entirely.

The great pyramid wants about 8 ft. of its height at the top, many stones having been taken away or thrown down by people out of wantonness. Dr. Pococke says, that the upper course consisted of nine stones when he saw it, and that two more were wanting to complete the course. Mr. Mayer found only seven; so that two had been thrown down since Dr. Pococke's time.

By whom, or at what period, this pyramid was opened is not certainly known. An Arabian author, Ibn Abd Alhokm, discoursing of the wonders of Egypt, relates that Al Mamoun, the Caliph of Bagdad, caused it to be opened about ten centuries ago; and that there was found in it, toward the top, a chamber, with a hollow stone, in which was a statue like a man, and within it a man, upon whom was a breastplate of gold, set with jewels; on his breastplate lay a sword of inestimable price, at his head was a carbuncle of the bigness of an egg, shining like the light of the day, and upon him were characters written with a pen, which no man understood. But by whomever it was opened, or whatever was then found in it, nothing now remains but an empty sepulchre. To arrive at this you first descend a sloping passage or gallery, 79 ft. long, 4 ft. high, and 3 ft. 4 in. wide. At the end of this is an irregular space, 8 ft. 6 in. wide, and about 10 ft. 6 in. high, formed by breaking a way through to the second passage, which runs sloping upward

102 ft. This is 3 ft. 2 in. wide and 4 ft. 3 in. high. From it is an opening to a well, 1 ft. 3 in. high and 3 ft. 4 in. in height. The third or great gallery, which terminates in a kind of very sharp arch formed by each course of stone projecting a little beyond that which is beneath it, continues the ascent 128 ft. farther. This is 6 ft. 9 in. wide and 38 ft. 6 in. high, measured at right angles. On each side is a bench, near 1 ft. 1 in. high, and the same in width. From the end of this gallery a horizontal passage leads to the principal chamber, the doorway of which is 3 ft. 9 in. high and 3 ft. 2 in. wide. The chamber itself is 35 ft. long, 22 ft. 5 in. wide, and 25 ft. 6 in. high. It contains the sarcophagus, which is 7 ft. 6 in. in length externally, 3 ft. 6 in. wide, 3 ft. 9 in. high, and 6 in. thick. From the landing-place at the end of the second passage

head. The head is covered with a hood, bound on above the eyebrows, spreading out very wide on each side of the face, and ribbed all over. There are several horizontal veins of softer strata in the rock, which have mouldered away, and give it a singular appearance behind. The neck is so decayed that its original form is entirely lost.

That this chimerical figure, having the head of a woman, the paws of a lion, and the body of a dog, should have been designed as a type of some important occurrence is highly probable; and that it was emblematical of the rising of the Nile, which took place in the months of July and August, when the sun passes through the signs of Leo and Virgo, is by no means a far-fetched conjecture. If this be the true import of a representation common in Egypt,

though of much smaller dimensions than that we are now considering; and it be also a fact that the sphinx is met with as a sacred or mystical figure in Hindostan, which has been reported, this would be a strong argument to prove that in ancient times a migration from Egypt to Hindostan took place, instead of the Hindoos having peopled Egypt.

But, whatever the sphinx may have been intended to typify, the situation of this colossal statue with respect to the second pyramid and its temple clearly indicates its connection with them. Pliny informs us that in his time there was a subterraneous communication between the body of the sphinx and one of the pyramids. We have little reason to question, therefore, that this sphinx was once connected with the temple, before which it stood, by a secret passage, through which the priest ascended to its head, whence he issued oracular responses to the multitude below.

THE CATACOMBS.

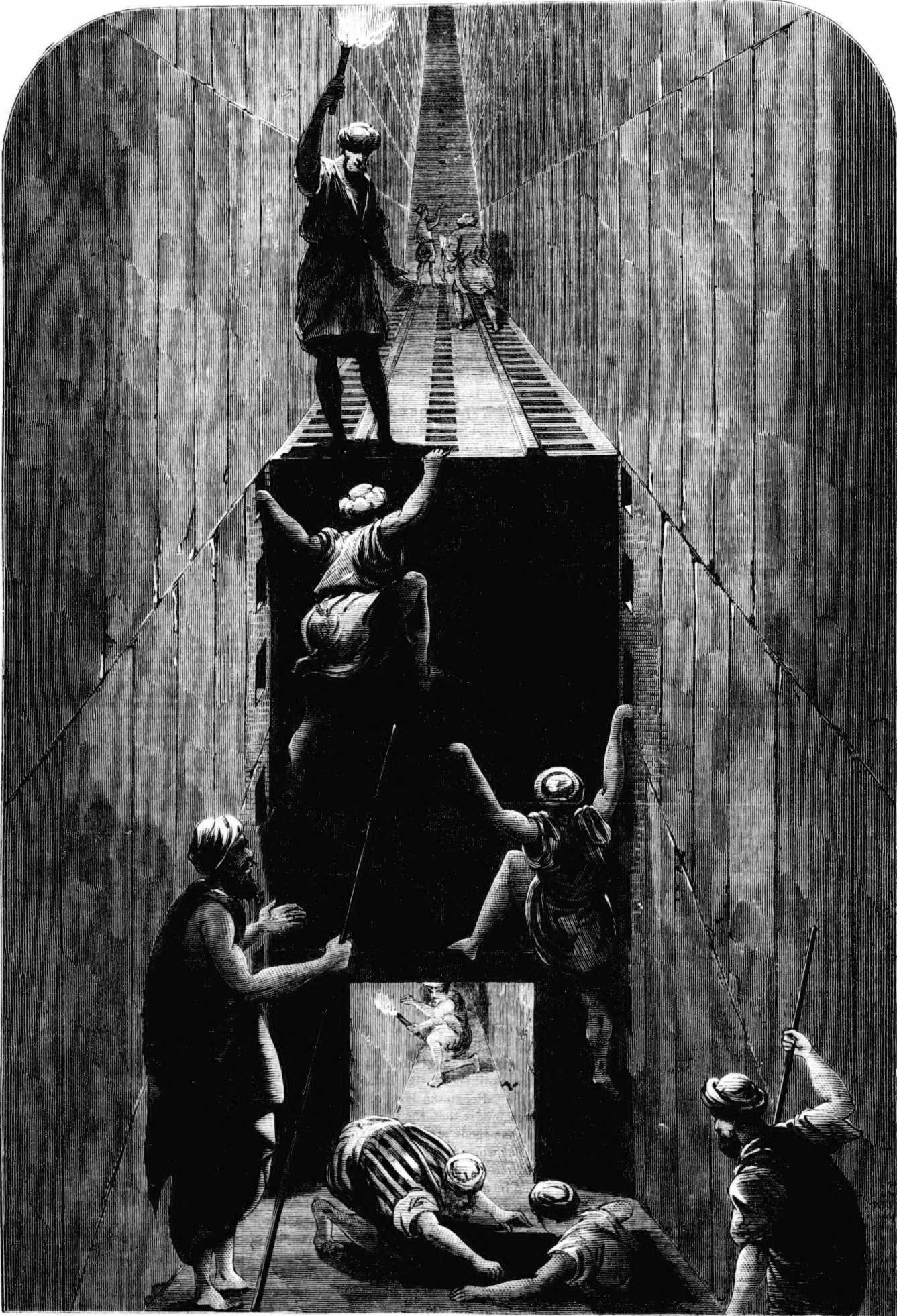
Subterraneous repositories of the dead are numerous in the neighbourhood of the two larger pyramids, and of great antiquity, no doubt; though, from the sculptures they exhibit, we must naturally infer the work of times much less rude. Some of them are executed in a style of excellence superior to the performances of a similar kind in the sepulchral grottoes of Upper Egypt. It is not improbable, therefore, that these were made at the time when Memphis, which stood but a few miles south of the pyramids, was the capital of this kingdom.

No part of Egypt appears to have been explored with any degree of diligence in which catacombs have not been found, though differing much in their form and workmanship. Some of them are simply square cavities hewn out of the rock; others are chambers with one or more rows of niches in their sides to receive the bodies of the dead; and frequently there are several of these chambers, communicating with each other. The roofs of some are flat, of others vaulted, and some rise in domes over circular areas. The walls of some are perfectly plain; those of others are covered with

insculptured hieroglyphics, adorned with bas-reliefs or embellished with a profusion of painting and gilding. Occasionally we meet with statues in them as large as life, in sitting postures, with hieroglyphics upon scrolls resting in their laps or upon the adjacent walls; probably the epitaphs of the persons represented by the statues, and containing a brief chronicle of their lives.

Neither were these places of sepulture confined to the reception of human bodies. The ibis was embalmed with religious care, inclosed in an earthen urn and then deposited in a subterranean vault. There are galleries of this kind 40 ft. or 50 ft. beneath the surface of the ground, in the sides of which are several chambers filled with earthen vessels, each containing an embalmed ibis enveloped with linen. Other animals held in veneration by the Egyptians were embalmed and inhumed in a similar manner.

Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer, of the West Essex Yeomanry Cavalry and Artillery, feeling that he can no longer discharge the duties as he could wish, has resolved to resign the command.



INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID, EGYPT: PASSING FROM THE SECOND TO THE THIRD GALLERY.

a horizontal gallery leads to another chamber below the former. Though the pyramids most forcibly strike the eye, and command the attention, yet they are not the sole objects here that deserve the notice of the inquisitive and enlightened traveller. In their neighbourhood were spacious temples, the ruins of one of which are still easy to be traced before the eastern front of the second pyramid, and of another before that of the third. Various sepulchral chambers, too, have been cut in different parts of the rock, and highly ornamented in baso-relievo. Beside these, about 600 paces to the east of the second pyramid, is a monument remarkable for its singularity—namely,

THE SPHINX.

This huge statue was sculptured out of the solid rock. Its body about 100 ft. in length, is now buried in the sand, above which the head rises at present 27 ft. Though the nose and the upper lip have been destroyed by the Arabs, the head is strongly marked with the characteristics of the negro form. The ears are remarkably large, the upper edge of them being on a line with the middle of the fore-

THE MINT

EVERYBODY knows how money can be spent; most people know how it can be earned; a select few, pretty equally distributed from the highest to the lowest classes, know how it is to be saved; but very few of any class trouble themselves as to the mechanical processes by which mere metal is made into coin, whether gold, silver, or copper. This is done at the Mint, or, as it is termed, the New Mint, to distinguish it from its many predecessors. At one time there were several Mints existing—those, for instance, at London, at Chester, at Winchester, and at York. That at Southwark was continued in operation later than any, but was at last removed, and the Mint in the Borough, once so famous for its production of money, is now a villainous neighbourhood, only notorious for the certainty with which persons possessing it are robbed there. All the Mints were then drawn in and concentrated in one central office in the Tower, and there the works were carried on till about 1806, when the present, or, as it is called, the New Mint, was built. Few persons who have seen the modest stone exterior of this building will be inclined to credit the statement that nearly a quarter of a million of money was spent on its erection, though such is said to be the fact. At all events, the New Mint since 1806 has been the sole coining centre for the British empire, where not only all the coins, from farthings to pounds, are struck, but where all commemorative medals, all medals for the Army and Navy, all gold medals for the Board of Trade, all Victoria crosses, and all medal decorations of any kind awarded by the Government, are made and issued. The history of an establishment so vast, and the operations of which are so continually varying, must necessarily be interesting, though so voluminous as to take its real history far beyond the limits of any newspaper article. Much, however, may still be told which will be new and interesting to the great mass of readers.

There is a popular notion that anyone taking gold, silver, or copper to the Mint can have it at once made into an equal weight of pounds, shillings, or pence, and this at one time was the fact. But it is not so now, except with respect to gold. Time was when silver plate and bars of copper, gold ornaments, and gold trinkets used to be left for coining. Now, however, the practice has sunk into desuetude, for the Mint is not bound to return coin for bullion in less than twenty days, and not now bound to take private consignments of silver or copper at all. People find it much more advantageous to dispose of their metals through the ordinary metal and bullion agents, who pay on the spot, and from these again the bullion agents of the Mint buy, according as silver or copper is needed. The Act of the Mint still binds them to take gold from any who bring it to them to coin, though, as a rule, these transactions are done through the Bank of England, which, of course, has to buy gold in ingots, dust, bars, or foreign coin, and which either sends it to the Mint for its own purposes, or sells it to the Mint as it may be wanted. As a fact, however, anyone taking gold to the Mint can have it made into sovereigns, and the country bears the whole expense of the coining. The very last private application which was made to the Mint came from Mr. Peabody, who sent about £10,000 of old gold of all kinds to be made into sovereigns. This was the only application of the kind that has been made for years past. It is a singular fact that, for the first time in the history of the Mint, not a single sovereign was struck there during the whole of last year, nor has one yet been struck there during this. During nearly fifteen months, in fact, not a pound sterling in gold has been added to the currency of the kingdom. It was thought after the panic of 1866 that the Mint would have to coin more money; but the very reverse has been the case. The Mint itself is suffering from the depression which has for a time overtaken all trades and occupations. The demand there now is not for pounds, but for shillings and sixpences, and even at the manufacture of these

the men are only working half-time, and at little more than half-wages.

Before proceeding to describe how the money itself is manufactured, it may not be out of place to say a few words as to how currencies die out, and how certain coins are popular or unpopular for years. The guinea and the half-crown were always popular; the five-shilling piece, the florin, and the fourpenny piece always unpopular. The guinea was first coined in Charles II.'s reign, and derived its name from the Guinea Company, which used sometimes to stamp on it the elephant, as symbolical of its African origin. The guinea was so popular that its successor, the sovereign, was for a long time looked on with dislike. It may surprise the reader to hear that any coins of the realm were ever looked on with disfavour;

the handsomest in our currency—is now no longer issued in this country, and will soon become as much a thing of the past as guineas. The fourpenny piece, which was introduced for the first time in 1836, has always been so unpopular that its coining has been discontinued, and for the last twelve years not one has been struck. The favourite half-crown, too, has gone the same way, though not without a struggle for its retention on the part of bankers and employers, who took a great aversion to the florin. But it was useless coining two-shilling pieces and two-and-sixpenny pieces at the same time, so the latter have been discontinued, and now only florins, shillings, sixpences, and threepenny pieces are struck. What are called the garter sovereigns, the lion shillings, the rose-thistle-and-shamrock shillings have all nearly disappeared

from circulation; not only because they come into the Mint and are remelted and reissued in a more modern guise, but because, from their scarcity, there is a belief, or kind of general notion that a sort of "luck" attaches to them, so they are kept to an extent that has made good impressions very scarce indeed, and when they do appear the cleanliness and sharpness of their outline show at once how little they have been in circulation. A curious illustration of this may be found even so recently as in the history of florins. The first issue of these were small in size, and the usual letters F. D. had to be omitted from their circumference. A sort of protest was raised against this coining, which at once received the name of the "graceless florin." Public attention was thus directed to them; they were kept as specimens, and though 750,000 were issued, hardly any are in circulation, and none are returned to the Mint.

The amount of damage sustained by spurious coinage is very small. There are only a very few coiners or "smashers" in London, and as they have to manufacture by hand—that is to say, to cast each piece separately in plaster moulds, and afterwards electrotypes it—the process is very slow, and is entirely limited to the silver coinage, and more especially the florin and the shilling. "Smashers" never make money to pass themselves. They make it and sell it in dozens to those willing to undertake the risk of passing it off on the unwary, and the price of these counterfeits is in exact proportion to the risk incurred in passing them. Thus, counterfeit florins of the best class cost as much as 12s. a dozen, and the best class of shillings 6s. a dozen, and these coins, unless minutely examined, would be taken offhand by anyone; on the other hand, shillings can be got as low as 2s. a dozen, and common florins for 3s. a dozen. The "smashers" are a peculiar set of rogues, the number of whom has not much increased or diminished for the last fifty years. There is a kind of "cutler's law" among them never to tell from whom they buy the



ENTRANCE TO A TOMB, NEAR THE SPHINX, EGYPT.

but the records of the Mint show that the public are as fastidious in their coins as in their food; and there are some which are regarded with such dislike that the public will not take them till they see they can get no others. In this way the coining of guineas was stopped and the sovereign forced upon the public, who have now taken to it very kindly indeed. But this has not been the case with either the five-shilling or fourpenny pieces. The former were old institutions of long-standing unpopularity. Many, even in the simplest retail transactions, refused to receive them. But they were driven out of circulation by the bankers who sent to the Mint for silver, and the employers who sent to their banks for silver, both of whom so constantly stipulated against taking five-shilling pieces that they remained on the hands of the Mint. Yet about £2000 worth of these coins are made every year to go to the Falkland Islands. There the whalers—English, Germans, Swedes, and Americans—assemble to pass the winter in harbour, and among them the only accepted currency is the English five-shilling piece; for them, therefore, it is manufactured, and to the Falkland Islands it is sent. This noble coin, therefore—by far

coin, though the Mint police would rather catch one maker of counterfeit coin than twenty utterers. Only one formidable attempt against the gold coin was ever made, and this was some three or four years ago. A party of Germans established themselves secretly at Hamburg, and entered into a well-considered and deliberate plan for making English sovereigns. These conspirators did not fall into the vulgar error of our native "smashers" of making actually bad sovereigns. They simply put so much additional alloy into the pure gold as to make its value 17s. instead of 20s. These adventurers made proper steel dies, erected presses, and had all the appurtenances for the processes which are gone through in the English Mint—in fact, they established a private mint at Hamburg. Many thousands of their sovereigns got into circulation on the Continent; for, in fact, none but the Mint authorities could detect them, except by weight. By this test, however, they were at last discovered, the coiners traced, and their place of business seized. The chief conspirators escaped; but all their dies, machines, and a very considerable sum in pure and adulterated gold fell into the hands of the Hamburg

authorities; so that the speculation, though boldly conceived and skillfully carried out, was a ruinous one, after all. Not half as many sovereigns were put into circulation as would pay the first cost of the plant employed in their manufacture. Yet within the last few days one of these sovereigns was sent back to the Mint from Devonshire, simply on account of its extraordinary lightness without apparent wear, and the tests showing it to be to all appearance standard gold. Of course at Tower-hill it was at once recognised and destroyed.

Those who have now and then to pay in sovereigns at the Bank of England know how often one or two or more light sovereigns are rejected—that is to say, not returned, but cut into two or three pieces—4d., 6d., or 8d., according to the deficiency of the piece, being charged for the unpleasant process. The popular impression is that these cut sovereigns go back to the Mint to be remelted and recoined. But there are a vast number of trades in England which require standard gold for all sorts of purposes, and these regularly go to the Bank to buy these cut sovereigns. The reason is obvious. Few trades use so much gold at once as to require an ingot of gold, which weighs from 250 oz. to 300 oz., and if they did they have seldom the means necessary to melt it. But they can buy the cut sovereigns by the ounce or the pound; and though as coins they may have been light, yet as metal they are known to be pure. In this manner, between the gilding and porcelain trades, an immense amount of gold is annually absorbed. The porcelain trade alone takes nearly £50,000 worth of gold a year; and between gilding and porcelain the annual consumption of England and France is estimated at not less than 40,000 oz., which is lost to currency for ever.—*Times*.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has sent her usual annual contribution of £50 to the Royal National Life-boat Institution.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES has had a Bible presented to her by the Sunday-school children of Great Britain and Ireland.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to direct that the "Journal" shall be translated into the ancient language of the Cymry. Sir Thomas Biddulph, by command of her Majesty, has requested the Rev. J. Jones, Vicar of Llandissilio, near New Quay, Cardiganshire, an eminent Welsh scholar, to undertake the work.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, it is reported in St. Petersburg, will pay a visit to that capital in June, and brilliant fêtes and a review of 100,000 men will be prepared for his reception.

THE ANNIVERSARY of the wedding-day of the Prince and Princess of Wales was celebrated on Tuesday, when their Royal Highnesses gave a grand dinner at Marlborough House.

GREAT FESTIVITIES are to be held at Turin in celebration of the marriage of Prince Humbert to Princess Margherita. The festivities will commence on April 19, and will be continued till the 26th. The marriage ceremony will take place on April 22.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between the Count of Caserta, younger brother of ex-King Francis II., and Princess Marie Antoinette de Bourbon, eldest daughter of Count Trapani.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER was re-elected last Saturday by the constituency of North Northamptonshire.

THE ROYAL GOLD MEDAL of the Institute of British Architects has been awarded, with her Majesty's sanction, to Mr. A. H. Layard, M.P.

MR. HORNBY, the new Head Master of Eton, has determined on abolishing the system of giving "leaving books," and, so far as he is himself concerned, "leaving money" also.

SIR GEORGE BOWYER, it is said, will have for his opponent at the next election for the borough of Dundalk Mr. A. M. Sullivan, the editor of the *Nation*, now confined in Richmond Bridewell.

MR. O'NEILL, of Shane's Castle, Antrim, is to be made a British peer as Baron O'Neill.

THE VEN. BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, now in the seventy-ninth year of his age, lies in a critical condition at Farnham, having been attacked with paralysis.

MR. GEORGE MARKHAM GIFFARD, Q.C., of the Chancery Bar, has been appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship vacant by the promotion of Sir W. Page Wood. Mr. Giffard was called to the Bar in 1840.

MR. SAMUEL MORLEY has sent a cheque to the trustees of the grammar school at Nottingham for £1500, to found a scholarship.

A VACANCY has arisen in the representation of Huddersfield by the death of Mr. Crosland, who expired at his seat near that borough on Sunday, after a lengthened illness.

MILITARY OPERATIONS are about to be undertaken, under the direction of General Pallavicini, for the suppression of brigandage on the Neapolitan frontier.

A CASE, "Tromp v. Tromp," now before the Vice-Chancellor, will probably result in £50,000 going to a man who keeps a small tobacco-shop at Northampton, and who till lately was a waiter at the George Hotel in that town. His sisters claim about £100,000 more.

THE RETURN OF DR. DIPLOCK as Coroner for Western Middlesex is to be contested. It is intended to move for a *quo warranto* on the first day of next term, and to take certain other legal proceedings on Dr. Hardwick's behalf.

A DEPUTATION FROM THE IRISH PRESBYTERIANS is now in London to ask for an augmentation of the Regium Donum; and forty Irish Conservative members of Parliament are said to have agreed to support the claim, "with a view to unite the Episcopal and Presbyterian bodies in Ireland."

A NUMBER OF NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN are in negotiation for the purchase of the gallery in Pall-mall hitherto known as the British Institution. It is intended to establish a private athletic club, with bowling-alley, billiard-rooms, &c., in the building.

MILES WETHERELL, the man charged with the Todmorden murder, has made a full confession of his crime.

A FIRE, by which nine houses were almost completely destroyed, took place at a quarter past two on Wednesday morning, in John-street, Smithfield. No lives were lost, and the property was insured.

THE ITALIAN AND PONTIFICAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES met on Feb. 6, at a village upon the Umbrian frontier, and concluded an arrangement for executing the provisions of the conventions relative to the pursuit of brigands upon the Italian and Pontifical territories.

BURKE, CASEY, AND SHAW have been removed from Warwick Gaol to Newgate, to take their trial at the Central Criminal Court.

TWENTY THOUSAND COLLERS of the St. Helens district are on strike against a proposed reduction of their wages of 15 per cent. They are willing to accept a reduction of 10 per cent; but to this at present the masters refuse to assent.

DISTURBANCES have broken out in the neighbourhood of Mons, in Belgium, in consequence of workmen being thrown out of employment, and a strong detachment of gendarmes has left Mons for the disturbed district.

LUXEMBOURG has suffered greatly from the loss of the Prussian garrison. Commerce is in stagnation, and real property has declined in value more than 50 per cent. Throughout the duchy, also, there is great distress, and, in consequence, families are emigrating by scores to America.

NEW GOLD-FIELDS have been discovered at a locality on the Rocky Mountains, at Sweetwater, in Dakota, fifty miles from Omaha, within a hundred miles of the route to be traversed by the Union Pacific Railroad, which in extent and richness, and facilities for working, are likely to surpass any yet opened up.

A NOVEL ARTICLE was offered in pawn last week in Bermondsey—neither more nor less than a baby. Its mother shared her room with another woman, who in her absence came home intoxicated, rolled up the bed on which the child lay sleeping, and trundled off with it to the pawnbroker's, on whose counter the infant rolled out—not quite dead, but nearly.

SIR R. NAPIER writes to the Secretary of State for India that he has been reluctantly compelled to allow Dr. Krapf, who was engaged as Amharic dragoman, to quit the Abyssinian expedition, as he has lost his health in the performance of his duties, and has been recommended by his medical attendant to proceed immediately to Europe. Sir R. Napier speaks very warmly of Dr. Krapf's services, and says it will be difficult to supply his place.

THE SHIP GENERAL GRANT sailed from Melbourne for London early in 1866, and not arriving at her destination, was posted as a missing vessel. The mystery of her disappearance has now been cleared up by one of the passengers having communicated with the Melbourne authorities. He states that in May, 1866, the vessel was wrecked in the neighbourhood of the Auckland Islands, and that only thirteen passengers out of about 100 persons on board were saved.

MR. JOHN R—, a Cheshire tradesman, recently had occasion to separate from his wife, and, by way of making the fact known to all whom it might concern, he sent an advertisement to a district paper, stating, in the usual formula, that he would not thenceforward "be responsible for any debt or debts which his wife might contract." In the current issue of the same newspaper the following indignant rejoinder appears:—"I, Sarah Ann R—, the wife of J. R—, never did contract any debts in my husband's name; on the contrary, I have paid a great many of his debts, and also had to clothe and provide for him.—Signed, Sarah Ann R—."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. GLADSTONE'S bill, which practically abolishes compulsory church rates, got through Committee on Wednesday, and will probably pass the House of Commons without further opposition. And now comes the often-repeated question, "What will the Lords do?" It is said that Mr. Gladstone has received an intimation that the Bishops will not oppose the bill; and as it is quite certain that the Government will not oppose it in the Upper House, it is almost certain that in a few weeks the bill will become law, and this ancient impost will be practically abolished. Church rates are of untraceable antiquity. The war began with the Quakers refusing to pay them about thirty-five years ago, and it has been carried on with surprising pertinacity. Thousands of people have submitted to the seizure of their goods. Several have suffered imprisonment; notably, John Childs, of Bungay, a printer, who was incarcerated for I know not how many months. The man, however, who did more than any other to get church rates abolished was Mr. Courtauld, a silk manufacturer at Braintree, who contested in the courts of law the power of the churchwardens to make a rate without the consent of the parish, and, ultimately, got a final decision that the churchwardens had practically no such power. Before this decision many parishes had refused church rates, and after the decision the movement against them became very vigorous in towns. A book lying before me, dated 1863, tells me that at that time church rates had been abolished in more than 5000 parishes. The bill before the House is called a compromise; but it is a compromise all on one side, for if it should become law no man in England need pay church rates. We owe the suggestion of a compromise of this sort to John Bright, to whom we owe so many good ideas. This bill, should it become law—as most likely it will—breaks one more of the ties between the State and the Church. The Marriage Act, an Act to enable Dissenters to marry at their own chapels, severed one; the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, another; the Cemetery Act, another; but neither of these was so strong as this Church-rate bond, and now that is all but severed. What next, and next! And yet the Church is richer, and certainly more potent, than it was when the first of these Acts was passed. By-the-way, I have forgotten to mention the severance of two other ties—to wit, the passing of the Tests and Corporations Acts and the admission of Jews into Parliament. If such things have been done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry? Or, in plain words, if an unreformed, or partially reformed, Parliament could achieve these conquests, what will a reformed Parliament do? Perhaps turn the Bishops out of the House of Lords and—who knows?—disendow the Church.

"Things look very fishy," said a member of Parliament, as he left the House at the close of Lord Mayo's speech, meaning that the Conservative Government is in rather a rickety condition. It was expected that the noble Earl would offer something towards the redressing of Irish wrongs, but he really offered nothing. And now, if the Liberal party should decide to fight upon this question, I think the Government would be beaten. Whilst I am writing there is a notion about, traceable to no trustworthy authority, that issue will be joined; but I hardly think that the pear is ripe enough yet. The Conservative cup, I fancy, is not quite full; but that this Government can last long I deem to be impossible. It is weak in numbers, and terribly weak in debating power. In short, it owes its security entirely to the disorganised state of the Liberal party; but, depend upon it, that this will not last much longer; already one sees signs of coming coherence. If Gladstone were as clever a tactician as his opponent, this anomaly of governing by a minority would cease to exist in a week. But, as matters stand, the Cabinet cannot stand long. The shuffling policy must soon come to an end. Last year Mr. Disraeli conquered by bamboozling his own party into bribing the Opposition; and if he could bamboozle his party again to offer still further bribes to his opponents, he might hold his ground. But this, I suspect, he cannot do; and he cannot bamboozle his opponents. He must therefore, I think, be soon compelled to take his stand and fight, and then his doom will be sealed. It is possible that he may show front on this Irish question. There appeared to be something like it on Tuesday, and there was observable on Wednesday some little preparation in the Liberal ranks to meet him; but whilst I am writing he has not spoken, and until he speaks we can know nothing about his tactics. Perhaps before this communication of mine shall see the light we may be in the agonies of a political crisis.

Mr. Baxter means to press hard for ten more members for Scotland, to be taken from certain small English boroughs, and he is sanguine that he shall beat the Government; but a defeat on this question would not cause the Ministry to resign, Mr. Disraeli would bow to the decision of the House. There was a rumour that the Speaker had ruled that Mr. Baxter's motion was out of order, but the rumour is untrue. Mr. Speaker has decided that it can be put.

A correspondent asks me if I can give the public any information as to what has become of a magazine called the *Chromolithograph*, which was started some time since with very fair promises, but of which no number has been forthcoming for some weeks, and about which no information can be obtained. All I know of the matter is, that I believe the projector has got into pecuniary embarrassment, and that his affairs are now in the bankruptcy court. Hence the discontinuance of the publication, I suppose.

I am informed that an unknown benefactor, who gives the appropriate signature of "Help," has done a very sensible thing, and one which might be imitated by many other persons. Along with a money contribution to the funds of the Hospital for Diseased and Ulcerated Legs, in Red Lion-square, Holborn, he has sent a large package containing files of weekly and other papers, periodicals, &c.—viz., *Illustrated London News*, *Illustrated Times*, *Band of Hope*, *British Workman*, *Christian World*, *Revelation*, &c., for the use of the patients. Such help is most seasonable, and truly useful and welcome. This hospital, which is specially devoted to the treatment of the painful and tedious diseases above stated, is free to all of the poorer classes of working people; and its good work may be understood from the fact that during the past year there were upwards of 25,000 attendances at the hospital.

The current number of *Once a Week* contains the following extraordinary paragraph, in its pleasant column of "Table Talk":—

There has of late been plenty of talk about the sagacity of some animals, and the sensitiveness to music of others; but I am not aware that much evidence has as yet been adduced as to the musical tastes of reptiles. A thoroughly trustworthy friend, however, assures me that his brother, a man of curious tastes, used to keep a large number of toads in a great vat of water, and that when he piped to them with a little whistle they were wont to rise to the surface and join in chorus.

If this had been written by a literary tyro, one might not have marvelled greatly at the extraordinary ignorance of natural history therein displayed. But surely an editor ought to know that a toad is not even an amphibious, far less an aquatic, animal. No toad (or frog either, for that matter) could live in a vat of water. The toad, moreover, can emit no sound, except a kind of spitting hiss on sudden alarm. The frog can croak, it is true, but is never known to do so, except at certain seasons. As to toads rising out of water and joining in chorus to a little whistle, the statement is not a whit less absurd than the Yankee story of the tame oyster which followed its master about the house like a dog. In another paragraph of the same column, on the subject of a cat, I find the creature described, in inverted commas, as a "harmless, necessary animal." Really, even in these days of common misquotation, one might have hoped that a well-known line from the trial scene in "The Merchant of Venice" might have escaped perversion.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

I have, on previous occasions, spoken so warmly of Mr. Helps's "Realism," in *Macmillan*, that I feel at liberty this time to observe that, if the author does not take care, his interjected conversation-pieces, though good in themselves, will become twaddish by position, as vowels become long by the same. Surely, the extracts on pp. 394-5 are from "Oulita," a tragedy of his own, which Mr. Helps

thinks, perhaps, other people have forgotten. If he does, he is quite wrong. The paper on Mr. Owen Meredith's new volume of poems is very poor, and it won't persuade anyone that there is the true "breath of life" in that writer's splendid and sonorous verses. The first of a series of papers on "The Abyssinian Expedition," by Mr. Markham, F.R.G.S., &c., seems to be particularly good.

The prize for poetry this month belongs to the *Argosy*, which is, indeed, altogether a good magazine. Mr. W. C. Russell's comparison of "Goldsmith and La Bruyère" is well deserving of a little thought from readers who care for criticism of that kind.

How many articles have we all read lately about Hawthorne and the Brontë family? Why should people go there in winter rather than in summer? Goodness only knows! But, disliking, as I always did, Mrs. Gaskell's memoir of Charlotte, I take a grim pleasure in observing that nearly all the tourists (if not quite all) note that the Hawthorne people are very angry with the book. It was a striking instance of a truth which does not escape watchful observers of life—namely, that, of all testimony as to facts, and of all criticism of facts, the testimony and the criticism of virtuous indignation are the least to be depended on. The article which suggests these remarks is to be found in *Chambers's Journal*, and an excellent article it is.

In the *Sunday Magazine*, which is admirable, as it always is, the "Seaboard Parish" contains some exceedingly happy bits, and the picture on page 352 is very graceful; only Wynnie has too much chignon, and (even allowing carefully for the angle at which the head is posed) she is too wide behind the ears for her length of neck. The author makes the good clergyman hint that if there were more people in the world who were capable of making Original Remarks about human suffering, and the mystery of the world in general, there would not be so many doubters. Oh! Mr. Marshmallows, or whatever your name is (I forget your name, though I adore you), I often wish those wonderful solutions which never solve anything at the bottom of the sea! It is the Original Remarks, the beautiful ideas, the astonishing revelations, that too frequently break the poor donkey's back with the proverbial last feather! What can be more wide of the mark than your criticism to Connie, of that man's death by drowning (p. 355):—"It is all a fancy, my dear; there is nothing more terrible in this than in any other death. On the contrary, I can hardly imagine a less fearful one. A big wave falls on the man's head and stuns him, and without further suffering he floats gently out on the sea of the unknown." But do you pretend for a minute, Mr. Marshmallows, that it was supposed to be the pain that made this death so awful? Take all the physical suffering out of the death of Virginia; take away even half of Paul's love, since that is exceptionally intense; and, lastly, make Virginia the only victim of the hurricane; and have you removed the haunting awfulness of her death? Take the case of the young bride who was killed by lightning up the Alps a year or so back—her pain was small, but was her end less memorably dreadful? Well, the true criticism upon such cases is not far to seek; but it leaves the awfulness just where it was (and where it ought to be and was intended to be, and to remain); but your "pooh-pooh" addressed to that acquiescent Connie of yours was an evasion. I just wish I had been Connie, Mr. Marshmallows. Oh! I'd have bothered you, as that sexton did, about dead people liking to be made "comfortable" in their graves.

Four times out of five the *Victoria* is worth reading; not often (though it sometimes is) for its original articles, but generally for its translated or extracted matter. The reviews of books used to be particularly good; but that "department" has much fallen off of late. I have not read one line of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's last book; but the *Victoria's* review of it is, in itself, a curiosity of conceited positiveness upon doubtful matters.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There is very little to chronicle under this head; and what there is, is the very smallest of small beer. The only novelty that the week has seen is a poor farce (translated, I suppose, from the French or German, by Mr. T. J. Williams, and called "A Silent Protector,") which was produced at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE last Saturday. The farce is useful as a means of enabling Mr. Hare to show himself in a new line of character. Every fresh part that this excellent artist undertakes reveals some new and unexpected excellence in his dramatic composition. In "A Silent Protector" he plays a bustling light-comedy part of the Charles-Matthews school, with all the delicate finish of that eminent master. The plot turns upon an amusing idea. An unprotected young lady purchases the portrait of an unknown gentleman at an auction, and hangs it up in her drawing-room in order that she may be in a position to frighten undesirable admirers away by telling them that the portrait is that of her husband. The original of the picture, a Mr. Quentin Quick-fidget, who, like all Mr. T. J. Williams's characters, seems to have been christened on Twelfth Night, is pursued by bailiffs, and, disguised in a big beard, abruptly seeks a haven in the very room in which his portrait is doing duty as that of an unknown lady's husband. It is hardly necessary to add that the lady and gentleman thus ingeniously brought together eventually marry. The lady is nicely played by Miss Foote, and, with Mr. Trafford and Miss Seaman, formerly of the Adelphi Theatre, in two minor parts, the farce receives the benefit of an exceptionally strong cast. Still, it is not brilliantly written, and what there is of fun in it is, no doubt, of foreign extraction. Mr. Robertson's new comedy, "Play," is drawing tremendous houses. It has been judiciously condensed, and the time occupied in its representation is shorter by an hour than on the occasion of its first performance.

I had occasion to speak in complimentary terms, last week, of a pleasing little comedietta called "A Happy Pair," by Mr. Theyre Smith, which had been produced at the ST. JAMES'S. The comedietta, which is very brightly written, contained some internal evidence of French origin; and this fact, coupled with the announcement that it was a "new comedietta," by Mr. Theyre Smith, justified the critics in coming to the conclusion that it was an adaptation—a conclusion that the author has shown to be erroneous. Mr. Theyre Smith, who is new to the calling of a dramatic author, is probably unaware of the enormous difference between a "new piece," by Mr. So-and-So, and a "new and original piece," by Mr. So-and-So. In his innocence he probably imagined that the announcement that a new piece was written by Mr. So-and-So meant that Mr. So-and-So had really created the piece; whereas, in point of fact, it means that he has only translated it from another language. In justice to his own creative powers, I hope that he will go on as he has commenced.

Mr. Westland Marston's adaptation, "A Hero of Romance" (honestly announced as an adaptation, by-the-way), will be produced at the HAYMARKET this (Saturday) evening.

PARIS GOSSIP.

At length the everlasting Newspaper Press Bill has been voted by the Legislative Body. The present Chamber is touching the extreme term of its existence, and it seems inclined to assert the right of talking, to which 'tis said old age is prone. On the Army Reorganisation Bill, and on this measure, what floods of verbiage! Nature would appear to afford a sort of compensation to men and corporations in advanced years; and in proportion as they are impotent to do, they can take their revenge by saying. However, by 254 votes against 1—that distinguished one being the veteran M. Berryer—any Frenchman may now start a journal; and, provided he does not, as *Figaro* says, "criticise the authorities, nor religion; does not speak of politics, nor of morals, nor of placemen, nor of bodies which enjoy credit, nor of the opera, nor of other entertainments, nor of anybody who is anything," he may print freely, under the inspection of two or three censors.

That matter being disposed of, there has, nevertheless, arisen out of it an enormous amount of dirty linen washing before the eyes and under the noses of the public. M. de Kervéguen's accusations of corruption against two of the Paris prints having been proved to be unfounded calumnies, the *Pays*, *Journal de l'Empire*, reiterated the charges, and, being challenged, produced what it called its

Literature.

Scientific Guide to Switzerland. By J. R. MORELL, formerly one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

There are few portions of Europe—perhaps of the world—that have of late years received so much attention, or been the subject of so copious a literature, as Switzerland. All sorts of people have been exploring it, and publishing the results of their explorations. Mountain climbers have run mad upon the country of peaks, and mountains, and glaciers, and avalanches. No degree of peril or fatigue—nay, no amount of sacrifice of life—seems sufficient to induce tourists, and especially British tourists, to rest content with exploring more level and less dangerous lands, and to leave the Swiss mountains alone in their sublime grandeur. At this class of mortals Mr. Morell, in the midst of his scientific researches, steps aside to poke some quiet fun. Foreign scientific writers, he says, "would be inclined to classify certain remarkable variations in the genus *homo* of mammalia, and to describe them as a species originating in the British love of adventure, and developed in eccentric ascensions. They inform us that this variety is remarkable for the manifestation of a certain periodical mania, which shows itself in the form of an insatiable longing to reach the most inaccessible and hazardous peaks. The specimens of this strange variety are said to be sane on other points, and to present in other respects the normal condition of their kind; but Darwin's theory receives a strong confirmation in the evidence they present of the development of new and eccentric features under the influence of strong local excitement." In addition to mere excitement-hunters, first-rate scientific men have made Switzerland a favourite scene of their studies and observations. Hence we have full knowledge upon all matters connected with that interesting region; and Mr. Morell has digested, arranged, and reproduced that knowledge in the most exhaustive and desirable form.

It is almost impossible, in the space at our disposal, to convey an adequate idea of the immense mass of information contained in Mr. Morell's book. It treats of every description of natural phenomena—physical geography, natural history, hydrography, geology, glaciers, glacier theories, meteorology, avalanches, and all cognate themes. Each subject is treated of in separate divisions; and the whole finishes up with an account of the lake dwellings, their probable antiquity, and the character of their inhabitants. The work is remarkable for its compactness and for the graphic and intelligible way in which a vast mass of knowledge is conveyed to the popular or unscientific mind. There are, moreover, copious indices of species and illustrative diagrams. Readers must not be discouraged by the array of hard scientific terms they will meet with, nor by the measurements, figures, and formulae placed before them. If they will only boldly and perseveringly crack these hard nuts, they will find kernels worth the labour.

In investigating the subject of the lake dwellings, embracing the ages of stone, bronze, and iron, and mixtures of all three, Mr. Morell recommends the inquiring traveller to examine—first, the Museum of Zurich; secondly, the pile work on the Lake of Moosseedorf, near Berne, because it affords the most perfect example of a regular lake dwelling of the stone period; thirdly, the settlement of Robenhäusen, on Lake Pfäfers, near that of Zurich, and forming a tann in a peat district on the borders of St. Gall. We can learn more, he says, from this settlement than from all the others. We can there walk on the flooring of dwellings abandoned thousands of years ago, and see before us the hearths, utensils, and food of their people. Mr. Morell, who applies some specious reasoning to the subject, thinks it may be safely affirmed that the lake dwellings are more than 2000 years old; and probably reach up to from 1000 to 2000 years before Christ. "The plants discovered in them are useful as throwing light on the question of the variation of species, and lead to the conclusion that most of them agree with no recent forms so closely as to allow of their being classed together, though some kinds, as the compact wheat (*Binkelweizen*) and six-rowed barley, have undergone no perceptible change." Many facts go towards the conclusion of Professor Rüttimeyer, that the inhabitants succeeded an older race, perhaps of that supposed primitive population of Europe who fed upon mammoth and rhinoceros. The remains of the ancestors of the lake folk, however, if ever we hope to find them, will have to be looked for elsewhere, under the glacier-moraines.

Perhaps it may not be out of place, in connection with Mr. Morell's admirable work, to note the latest item of scientific discovery in Switzerland. M. Henri de Saussure, a descendant of the celebrated natural philosopher, has published an interesting paper in the *Bibliothèque Universelle* on a phenomenon which has but recently attracted attention. Having reached the summit of the Piz Surley, a mountain composed of crystalline rocks, in the Grisons, and 3200 metres in elevation, M. de Saussure and his party laid their alpenstocks against a little cairn of dry stones which crowns the summit, and prepared to take a repast. Almost at the same instant the narrator felt at his back, in the left shoulder, an acute pain, like that produced by a pin slightly pressed into the flesh, and when he put his hand to the spot without finding anything, a similar pain was felt in the right shoulder. Supposing his overcoat to contain pins, he took it off, but the pains increased, extending from one shoulder to the other across the whole back. They were accompanied by pricking sensations and sharp shooting pangs, such as a wasp crawling over the skin and stinging all the time might produce. The pain next assumed the character of a burn, and M. de Saussure actually fancied that his flannel waistcoat had caught fire, and was about to throw off the rest of his clothes, when his attention was arrested by a sound reminding him of the reverberations of a tuning-fork. These sounds came from the sticks which, resting against the cairn, sang loudly, emitting a sound like that of a kettle the water in which is about to boil. All this lasted four or five minutes. M. de Saussure at once guessed that his sensations proceeded from a flow of electricity issuing from the summits of the mountain. No spark, however, was obtained from the sticks, though they vibrated strongly in the hand, and sounded very loud. Some minutes afterwards he felt his hair and beard stand out, causing him to feel a sensation similar to that resulting from a razor passed dry over the bristles. A young Frenchman who was of the party, cried out that he felt the hair of his moustache growing, and that strong currents were flowing from the tips of his ears; and they soon flowed from all the parts of the bodies of those present. As they descended the mountain the humming of the sticks and the other phenomena diminished and eventually ceased. The sky was cloudy, and the travellers had been overtaken at the time by a shower of thin hail and sleet. On the same day a violent storm broke out in the Bernese Alps, where an Englishwoman was killed. Sleet, frost, and an overcast sky appear to be the conditions necessary for the production of the phenomena above described. Many of the guides have never observed them, and others recollect having remarked them once or twice only in their lives.

Queen Bertha and her Times. By E. H. HUDSON, Author of "Recollections of a Visit to British Kaffraria." London: Rivingtons.

Under the title of "Queen Bertha and her Times," Mr. Hudson gives us an epitome of a part of the early history of England, including, and specially intended to illustrate, the introduction of Christianity into this country—first, under the Romans, when the British proto-martyr, St. Alban, suffered during the persecution of Diocletian, on the spot where the abbey of St. Albans was afterwards erected and nearly where the fine old abbey church now stands; and, second, during the Saxon period, by St. Augustine and his companions in the reigns of Ethelbert, king of Kent, of Edwin, king of Northumbria, and of other princes of the Heptarchy. We have also an outline of British history during the interval between these two periods, which of course includes the departure of the Romans, and the Saxon conquest, under Hengist, Horsa, and their companions and successors; together with some interesting information as to the social condition, manners, customs, modes of

life, characteristics, and religious belief of our Saxon ancestors. These particulars are perhaps the most valuable portions of Mr. Hudson's book, for he seems to have consulted the best sources of information on the several points enumerated. As for his history, it is too meagre to be of much use, and is, moreover, too largely interspersed with legends and conjectures to be reliable. In short, Mr. Hudson uses history where he can get it, falls back upon legend where facts fail him, and, where neither facts nor legends are available, draws upon his imagination in the shape of conjectures, a faculty for which does him yeoman's service on more than one occasion. The book, however, taken with a certain amount of reserve as to the legends and conjectures, will form a very good introduction to the study of early English history; and, as it is specially designed for the perusal of youth, that is a good purpose for it to serve.

Perhaps some readers may not know, or may have forgotten, who Queen Bertha was. Well, all the information that can be got about her is given in Mr. Hudson's chapter on "Bertha's native country," and a bit of the history—and some legends—of that country besides. Queen Bertha was the only child of Charibert, king of Paris and Aquitaine, and third in descent from Clovis, and of Ingoberga his queen. Where she was educated, or where she lived during her early life, is not known; but about the year 570 she was married to Ethelbert, the young king of Kent—"the son of the Ash-tree," as the descendants of the son and successor of Hengist (if Hengist was a person at all, which is doubted) were called. The name "Son of the Ash-tree" originated much in the same way as that of Plantagenet did in a later age. Eric, the son of Hengist, was surnamed Uscus, or the Ash, because he wore a branch of that tree in his helmet. Ethelbert was a true Saxon and son of the sturdy Ash, and made himself noted for prowess in war and for wisdom and justice in government; but the most important events in his life, according to Mr. Hudson, and we quite concur with him, were his marriage with the French Christian Princess Bertha, his reception of St. Augustine, and his subsequent conversion by that prelate, who, as every body knows, was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. These are all the details of Queen Bertha's history for which we can afford space; but the whole story of her exemplary life is pleasingly told by Mr. Hudson, to whose book we refer the curious reader.

We have indicated above our opinion of this neat little volume, and have now only to add that Mr. Hudson appears to have a curious notion of the relative positions of a father-in-law and a son-in-law. He twice (pp. 31-5) calls Hengist the Saxon the "son-in-law" of Vortigern the Briton. Now, as Vortigern married Rowena, the daughter of Hengist, their relations were exactly the reverse—that is, Vortigern was the son-in-law of Hengist, not Hengist of Vortigern. We follow on this point the authority of Webster, who defines a son-in-law to be "a man who has married one's daughter;" but perhaps Mr. Hudson has better light. If Vortigern, in virtue of being a king, was under all circumstances entitled to be termed "Sire," even by his father-in-law, Hengist was likewise entitled to that appellation, for he, too, became a king—at least, it is believed so—and was therefore on equal terms with Vortigern, who actually ceased to occupy a regal position before his death. Perhaps Mr. Hudson will look into this matter before a second edition of his book is called for, and either correct the solecism into which he seems to have fallen or give reasons for using the phrase "son-in-law" in the connection in which he has employed it.

Practical Notes on Wines, &c. By EDWARD LONSDALE BECKWITH, Associate Juror and Reporter on Wines at the Paris Exhibition, 1867. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. Beckwith has reprinted, "by special permission," his "report on wines and other fermented liquors, prepared by command of her Majesty's Commissioners for the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1867; with additions and corrections." Most of the "parties concerned" will remember that Mr. Beckwith, without being, we will say, less impartial than other jurors, had yet the happiness to state truths—sometimes unpleasant truths—without giving so much offence as others gave. It was easy enough to satisfy French vanity on the subject of French wines, and no other country could very well object. And there was no danger in speaking naked truth about British wine, because the British nose has for centuries been turned up on that subject. Indeed, it may be taken as a certainty that Britain enjoys a majority of grumblers on everything British, although it may be that they know nothing about anything foreign. But, when it comes to British wines, Britons are for once unapologetically unanimous. And so Mr. Beckwith's hands were unfettered, and the result of his labour is good.

Mr. Beckwith must be considered as a matter-of-fact man up to a certain point. Convivialists will wish that he had gone further—that he had suffered his subject to run away with him, as wine will frequently do with the legs rather than the brains of gentlemen. There is *veritas* in Mr. Beckwith's *vino*, but not enough of it—just as Cromwell used to say that he might hold the whole truth in his right hand, but choose to open only his little finger. To supplement his capital "Notes on Wine," we will tell him the opinion of an authority as high in medicine as in wine, and who has studied both in conjunction. It will be interesting, moreover, to the amiable enthusiasts who have now and then made the fatal mistake of "that last glass of claret." It is that no mixing of wines will do harm to the body, provided the wines be good. What! says Society. Port on champagne, and then sherry and claret; and after those other things at dinner? Society—says our own doctor of medicines and of wines—knows nothing about it. Drink and mix whatever you please; drink as much as you like; but, if you get intoxicated, don't come to me! (Perhaps he means *do come*.) And, in reality, Society, when at a good dinner, would go away with dissatisfaction if there had not been a proper variety of wines to mix.

Of course, we are not going to repeat Mr. Beckwith's remarks on particular exhibitors at Paris. His national remarks, however, are within our province and within the province of all who love sound knowledge on a lovable subject. For England—leave England untouched! France—here we heartily agree with the praise of claret (as we call it) over burgundy, although sins are laid on the back of burgundy that assuredly should rest elsewhere. Many of the observations on champagne have already been anticipated by Mr. Robert Tones, in his "Champagne Country;" but Mr. Beckwith's pages, especially relating to the English market, are deserving of attention at Rheims, as well as in London. We will no longer have that "fatal gift of sweetness," nor that brandied sweetening which burns into the cheek of beauty itself. We must be treated with more modern civilisation. Modern civilisation will give us good and cheap wines. If France will not, Hungary and Greece soon will. Their present prices are in some cases low, but still dear; not enormously expensive, but dear—that is to say, unfairly high priced.

What England wants of her own at home she can almost always get of her own abroad. In wines the colonies are hopeful. Before long, a few old jokes may become superannuated. The Earl of Derby is reported to have returned a case of sherry sent to him as a "fine thing for the gout," on the plea that he "preferred the goat." And lately a nobleman boasted of his sherry that he "bought it of a bishop." "Ah!" said a friend; "Colenso." Soon, with Australian champagne and African sherry, of which nobody need feel ashamed, which the sea voyage treats kindly, and with which time seems to reverse its usual system of revenges, the average pocket may be able to light up the average brain to even better witticisms than those that must be supplanted. As proof of what is doing in present days, the United States Commissioners of last year say, "We do not exhibit for the sake of selling, but with the object of learning." That is thoroughly in the spirit of the great original spirit of great exhibitions; and a little international learning about wines will do much to make the whole world kin. Leaving the pure science of the pages to interested students, this little book of Mr. Beckwith's should be known in private houses as an indication of the road to health, pleasure, and economy. Coupled with Dr. Druitt's admirable "Report," it might save much annoyance caused by bad beer and bad gin, or by those things even when good which are so frequently taken by those to whom they can but do harm.

proofs. Grand fiasco! Proofs utterly failed; amounted to nothing, even if authentic. Need I say that the imagination which conceived these accusations of receiving money and decorations from foreign Governments was as foul as Vulcan's stithy? The Paris press is pure. Out of eighty political journals in France, three only pay their expenses. One—the *Temps*—only a few years established, has already swallowed up £10,000; and nearly all are losing large sums yearly. Here is a proof of purity: the people to whom these organs belong are above sordid motives, and are animated only by love of country and a firm conviction that the system alone which they advocate can save France. *Voilà la vérité!*

The Emperor is in first-rate health—I saw him in the Champ de Mars the other day—although he does not keep himself so much inognito as his cousin Prince Napoleon has done in Germany, whether he has made that mysterious tour. In fact, it has been observed that if the Prince pays a visit to a King, he is careful to conceal himself from vulgar gaze in a state carriage. Again, if at Berlin the French Ambassador gives a dinner in honour of the Prince, he takes the precaution of inviting only Ministers, Town Governors, and Generals to meet him; and, as his Imperial Highness is the discreetest person in the world, he holds aloof entirely from everything that might lead people to suspect he was occupied with politics; so that, in fact, he has had only three or four interviews with Count de Bismarck, and at these the conversation turned exclusively on the latest new opera, the Paris ballet-girls, and the success of the "Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein." Go to! This Prince shows the world what a Prince in incognito should be.

There is a proposal to give to the Prince Imperial the titular appellation of Napoleon IV., in order to habituate the French mind to it, *en attendant*.

We have had recently horrible and heartrending reports of famine from Algeria, quite as bad as, indeed worse than, the Orissa catastrophe. But nothing so harrowing since the time of Sawrey Bean has been divulged as this, which is related by the *Echo d'Oran*:—"Two days back (writes that paper), in the neighbourhood of Misserghin, a native woman killed her daughter, twelve years of age, and distributed the flesh to herself and her other children. The authorities, informed of the circumstance, proceeded to the spot, and on entering the hut occupied by these cannibals, ascertained that the heart, the liver, and the other viscera had been eaten because they would not keep. The mother was occupied in salting the remainder of her daughter's body, cut up into pieces, exactly as is done with pork." After that!

The "Vergneur" has been brought out at the Châtelet. Extraordinary precautions were taken in admitting the public, as if some dreadful riot was apprehended. Well, there was nothing of the sort. *Vive la République!* found a very feeble echo; nothing to shake the throne of the Tuilleries. The painters, the property men, and other scene designers obtained a success, for the spectacle was admirable; but the *mens divinior* was not at all divine. "Hamlet," made into an opera, has been represented at the Italiens. Nothing is too sacred for these Parisians. Only imagine "What a piece of work is man!" or "To be, or not to be," pronounced in recitative or sung! Shakespeare does not drown the fair Ophelia on the stage, but the French adapter does: *en revanche*, he leaves out the play scene, and also the grave-diggers. This opera is not a success.

THE BREECH-LOADER COMPETITION.

THE first report of the sub-committee on breech-loaders, which has just been rendered, will probably be disappointing both to the competitors and the public. This report deals only with the first stage of the inquiry—with the selection, that is to say, of the prize arm. By War Office advertisement, Oct. 22, 1866, three prizes were offered:—A prize of £1000 for the arm "which, on combination of all the qualities, is considered by the committee to be the best submitted;" a second reward of £600 for the arm which, "while attaining a satisfactory degree of excellence in other particulars, is selected for merit in respect to its breech mechanism;" and a third reward of £400 for the best cartridge. It is not very satisfactory to have to record that none of the arms submitted satisfied the whole of the conditions imposed by this advertisement. By very far the larger proportion of the arms failed in some elementary conditions, such as length, weight, or in not being submitted before the prescribed date. From the arms which did fulfil these conditions, the committee selected nine for trial—viz., the Albini and Braendlin, the Remington, the Fossberg, the Burton (two systems), the Peabody, the Martini, the Joslyn, and the Henry rifles. In the course of the competition which followed this selection, and which has been in active progress since November last, every one of the competing arms sooner or later fell short in some degree of the minimum of excellence prescribed. The consequence is that the committee have not awarded their £1000 prize at all. They have given the £600 prize (for breech mechanism) to Mr. Henry's gun. This arm is a "small-bore" (·415-in.) rifle, very similar in the arrangement of its breech action to the well-known Sharps carbine—that is to say, the breech is closed by a sliding vertical block, which is depressed for the admission of the cartridge by a lever underneath the trigger-guard. The piston or striker passes diagonally downwards through the breech-block, and is struck by a hammer. The Boxer cartridge is employed with the gun. This arm is known to most persons who take an interest in rifles. It won the £100 prize of the National Rifle Association in 1865, and it acquitted itself very creditably last year at Wimbledon. We reserve for a future occasion, when we shall have had an opportunity of considering the committee's report, more detailed remarks upon this competition, the result of which, looking to the time and labour which it has occupied, and to the liberal prizes which were offered, is the reverse of satisfactory. That after so many months of experiments and patient investigation, the committee should have been compelled to withhold the chief prize altogether and to select a breech mechanism with no novelty and scarcely any features of special excellence as the one best entitled to reward must be regarded as an unfruitful and disappointing result. It will be interesting hereafter to observe the grounds upon which the committee have based their decision. The report awarding the cartridge prize has, we believe, not yet been rendered.

CATTLE-POISONING.—Five head of valuable cattle and a sheep were poisoned during the past week on the farm of Mr. T. Jeffery, near Helston, Cornwall, by eating some roots of the plant hemlock water-dropwort, which grows plentifully in the locality. It appears that in the field where cattle and sheep were grazing were some heaps of manure, containing the clearings of ditches, and among this was a quantity of roots of the plant mentioned, which five bullocks and a sheep partook of, and died soon afterwards. The plant grows several inches high, and is not unlike celery.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—The Navy Estimates issued on Tuesday morning show a total net increase on those of last year of £201,037. The following items show an increase:—Wages to seamen and marines, to the amount of £85,682; the respective sums being £3,036,634 and £2,950,952. The larger sum, it is explained, includes the vote in supplementary estimate for the non-additional charge on account of the increased pay to be given to the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Marine Corps, amounting to £50,000. Victuals and clothing show an increase of £94,228, the respective sums being £1,335,842 and £1,241,614; Admiralty Office, £6346, the charges being, respectively, £182,364 and £176,018; victualling-yards and transport establishments at home and abroad, £784, the charges being £37,179 and £36,395. 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SCENES ON THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD. AMERICA.



THE STATION AT OMAHA.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

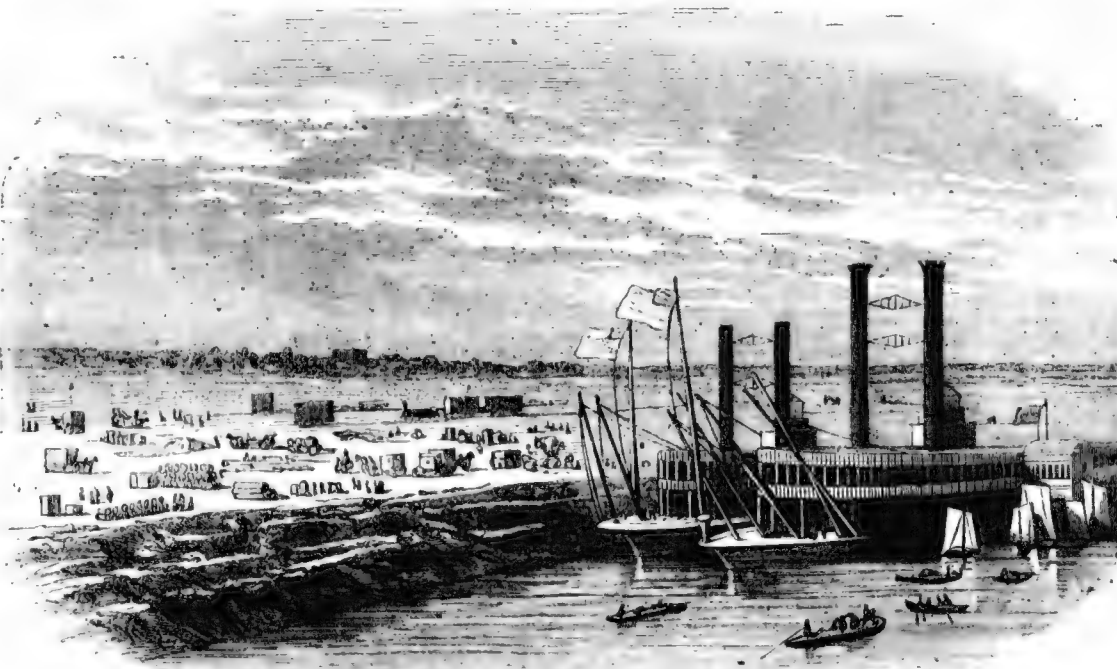
We copy the following on the great Union Pacific Railroad, of scenes on which we this week publish some Engravings, from Sir Cosack P. Roney's "Rambles on Railways":—

"From the day that the Americans became masters of California, they had always had it in their heads to join it by the best possible roadway to the old States of the Union; and it was a grand conception, for the distance between the railways of the valleys of the Mississippi and the Missouri, that here had stretched their arms outwards towards the west, were still separated from the Pacific by fully 2000 miles—as near as can be the distance which intervenes between St. Petersburg and Lisbon. Fremont—then Captain, now General—a few years back nearly President of the Republic, son-in-law of Benton, one of America's most worthy sons, traversed, with a few companions, in 1847, the desert that led to the Rocky Mountains, found out the passes through them, as well as those of the Sierra Nevada (the Snowy Mountain), and arrived in California just as his countrymen were taking possession of its territory. It was at the same time that the first golden nugget was discovered. The news spread, and a party of emigrants followed Fremont's footmarks. Those who arrived in California left the bones of many of their comrades to whiten and then to moulder in the desert, and it was nearly six months before the survivors reached the El dorado. Similar casualties beset the parties that followed the first gold-seeking pioneers, for the same spirit which makes every American believe that he may be President of the United States (therefore no

American ever commits suicide) made each survivor of each party, as its ranks were thinned by famine, fever, and the attacks of the Red Indians, believe that he, at all events, would be spared and arrive at last at his destination.

completed its journey between San Francisco and St. Joseph, both for passengers and despatches, in three weeks. A grand total distance of fully 2000 miles on the average of one hundred miles in each twenty-four hours; of course some days more, some days less;

for, independent of Nature's road on the desert, no less than two mountain passes had to be surmounted, and on these there was not in the first instance even a bridle-way. This pace, however, was considered too slow, at all events as regards correspondence. The 'Pony Express' was thereupon inaugurated in 1860, by which time the system of eastern railways had extended 400 miles more towards the west than what they were in 1858, consequently diminishing roadway distance to 1600 miles. This ground was got over in the marvellously brief time of six days, or at the go-ahead, we might almost add 'halter skelter,' rate of 265 miles a day! The rider performed no greater journey each day than his horse. The latter set off on a gallop and never ceased his fifteen to twenty miles, except when as occasionally, although not frequently, happened, Red Skin stopped the way, sent the rider to his long account, and then quietly rode off on the dead man's horse, which he claimed as his trophy. On Nov. 12, 1860, the courier rode into San Francisco with news from Europe of no longer date than the previous 21st of October. Even this speed did not satisfy; the telegraph was therefore laid the whole way across the American Continent; and now, thanks to the Atlantic cable, and difference of longitude, the merchant of London can tell his correspondent at San Francisco events that have happened twelve hours before the same hour has arrived in California. Unfortunately, however, for



THE STEAM-BOAT PIER AT OMAHA.

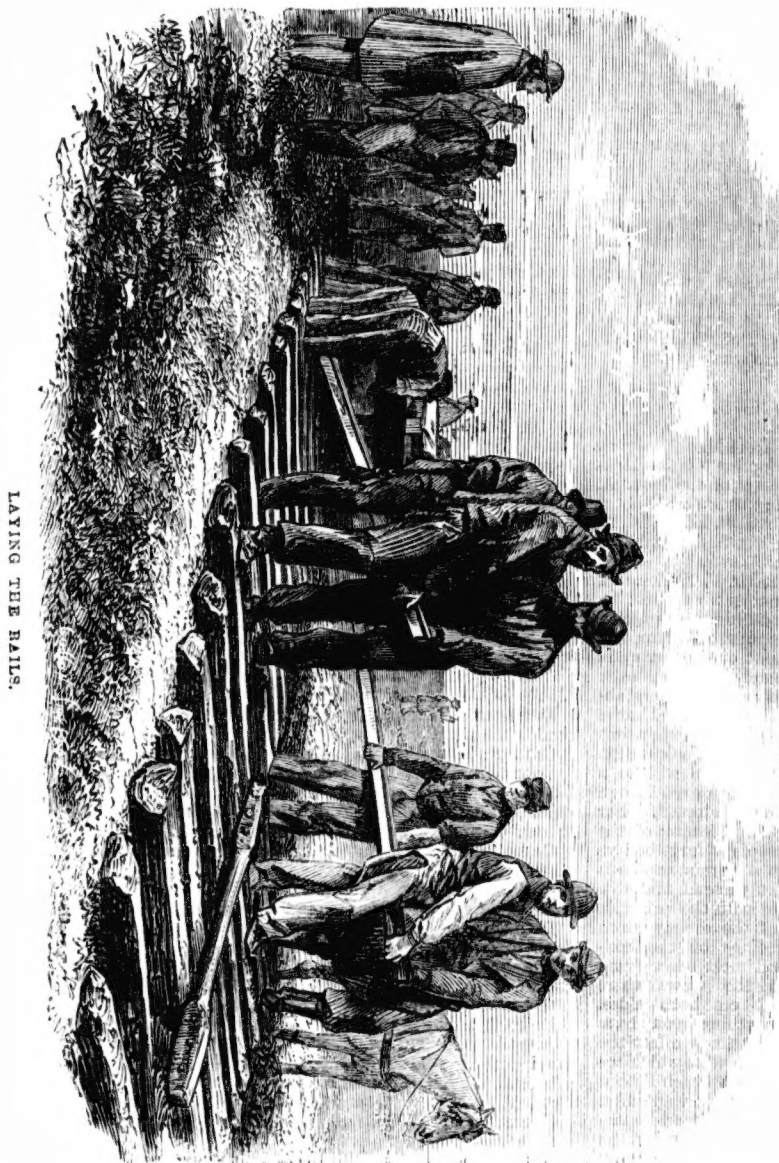
"But some *did* arrive, and by degrees the perils of the route diminished, although they have never, even at this day, altogether ceased. In less than ten years from the date that Fremont first set out on his expedition, a regular overland mail had been established, which

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VIEW IN VIRGINIA DALE: STAKING OUT THE LINE.

SCENES ON THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, AMERICA.



LAYING THE RAILS.

the Rocky Mountains, which it climbs up until not far from the summit of the Bridger Pass, due west of Omaha. A tunnel not more than 500 yards in length carries the line into Utah. In this territory it passes by Salt Lake and Salt Lake City, head-quarters of Brigham Young and his Mormons; thence to the State of Nevada, as rich in silver-yielding mines as those in California are in supplying gold. No wonder, then, that its capital, Carson City, should now have a population of 15,000, although seven years ago there was not even one inhabitant to boast of. At the passage of the Sierra Nevada there will also be a tunnel 500 yards long. Thence to Sacramento, and from there it will wend its way close to the river of the same name, and find itself at San Francisco. This is not only its extreme western, but it is also its extreme southern point, for, in coming west from the Bridger Pass, the latitude changes from 41 deg. to 38 deg. 20 min.; and it is from San Francisco that the western works commence and proceed easterly to meet, at some point as yet uncertain, those advancing in the opposite direction. They are already (1867) at the eastern foot of the Rocky Mountains, 500 miles from Omaha; and on the Pacific side they have reached the western slopes of the Sierra. Therefore, already more than a third of the whole line is accomplished. On the plain, progress is made at a rate that would astonish the European engineer, for the Americans are satisfied with the road-bed such as Nature has made it; and thus it is no uncommon thing to lay two miles and a half of the railway in a single day!

"And who are making the railway? On the east they are all Irishmen. As each half mile of it or so is made, they march along with it towards the west, with their wives, their children, their wooden houses rolled along on wheels, and their domestic animals—cats, dogs, goats—the more ambitious have occasionally a cow, the richest of all can sport a little pony. When the day comes for the meeting of the two

California, notwithstanding that the normal speed of electro-telegraphy is 280,000 miles a second, she is unable to let us know her news here in less than some twenty-four hours after its occurrence.

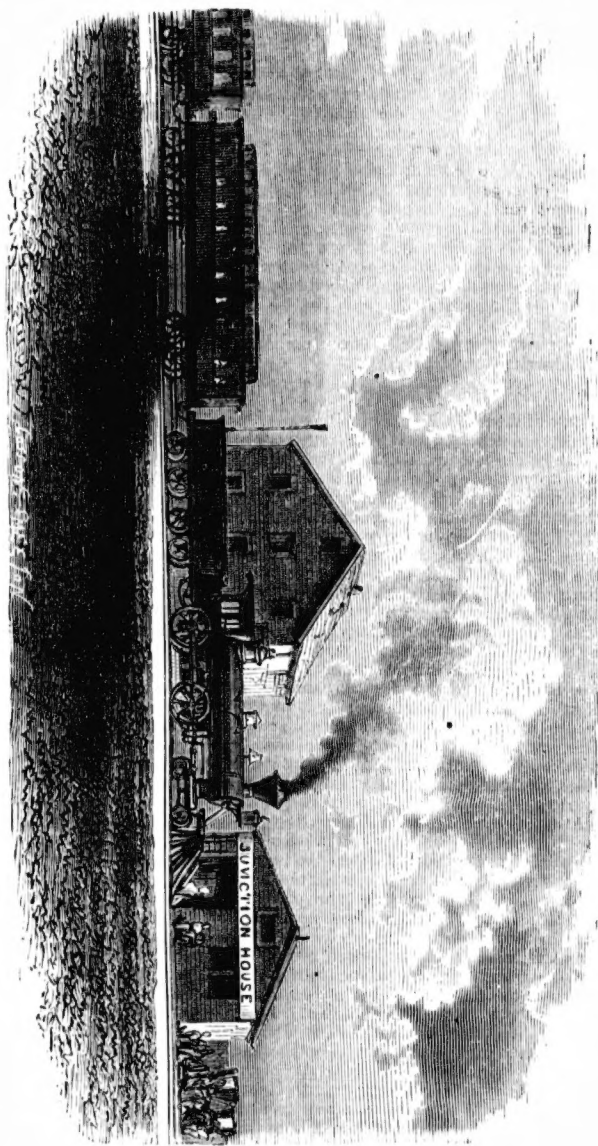
"In 1862 President Lincoln signed the Act of Congress for 'The Union Pacific Railroad Company.' Forthwith its works were commenced. Where? At two points:—The eastern, at Omaha, near the confluence of the Missouri river with that of the Platte or Nebraska, in the State of Nebraska, lat. 41 deg. north, long. 19 deg. west of Washington. The line follows the course of the river to

railway ends, the Irishmen will find that the fellow-labourers who have come to greet them are to a man 'John Chinaman,' for none others work on the Pacific side of the railway.

"Its total cost is to be £30,000,000 sterling—£16,000 a mile. Of the gross sum one third is guaranteed by the United States Government in money, in addition to the concession of immense tracts of land on each side of the railway. The State of Utah, or rather the individual Mormons, are good for £4,000,000, and private speculation furnishes the remainder. We have said already that a third of the railway is already accomplished. By 1870, probably—by 1871, certainly—it will be finished in its entire length. New York will then associate itself with Jeddo and Canton by this route; but not so London, Paris, and other parts of Europe. The writer in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* says that, on the completion of the railway, Europe will only be one month from Canton. Let us see:—London to New York, ten days; New York to San Francisco, 3000 miles, at twenty miles an hour (all stops and delays included), 150 hours—six days and a quarter; San Francisco is from Canton, even by great-circle sailing, exactly 6900 nautical miles. No paddle-wheel steamer could take coals for such a voyage; a screw-vessel of very large size, but depending mainly upon her sails for her speed, might make twelve, but very probably would not average more than ten, knots an hour; yet at the former rate her passage would be twenty-five days: total, forty-one days and a quarter. At ten knots an hour the passage would be nearly twenty-nine days, or a total of forty-five days. The mail now goes from London to Canton in fifty-two days; in 1871 the journey will be six or seven days shorter. The route to Jeddo via San Francisco will be quicker than that via Suez by seven or eight days, even under circumstances the most favourable for the latter route. By great-circle sailing, San Francisco is distant from Jeddo 5600 knots; and it is also eleven degrees farther to the north than Canton. These eleven degrees of north add 600 miles more in favour of San Francisco."

A few further details about this great work may be added.

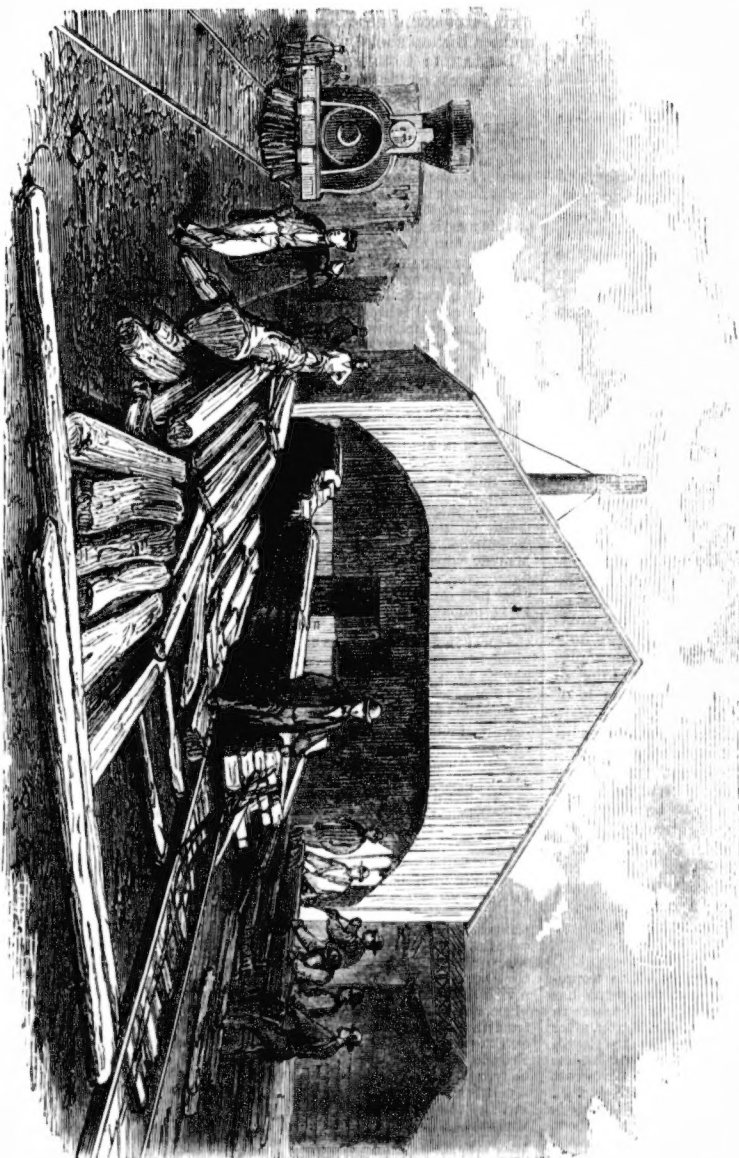
It is not very easy to imagine the scene at the railway station at Omaha, for there are united the elements which make the enterprise itself so extraordinary. The Indian sache and the grisly chief, in pristine blankets and feathers, elbow the rough trapper or the hunter whose love of sport is carrying him away to the wild prairie-grounds; and these, again, are mingled with fashionable tourists, in the latest modes de Paris, with negro servants fussing about luggage, and with shrewd



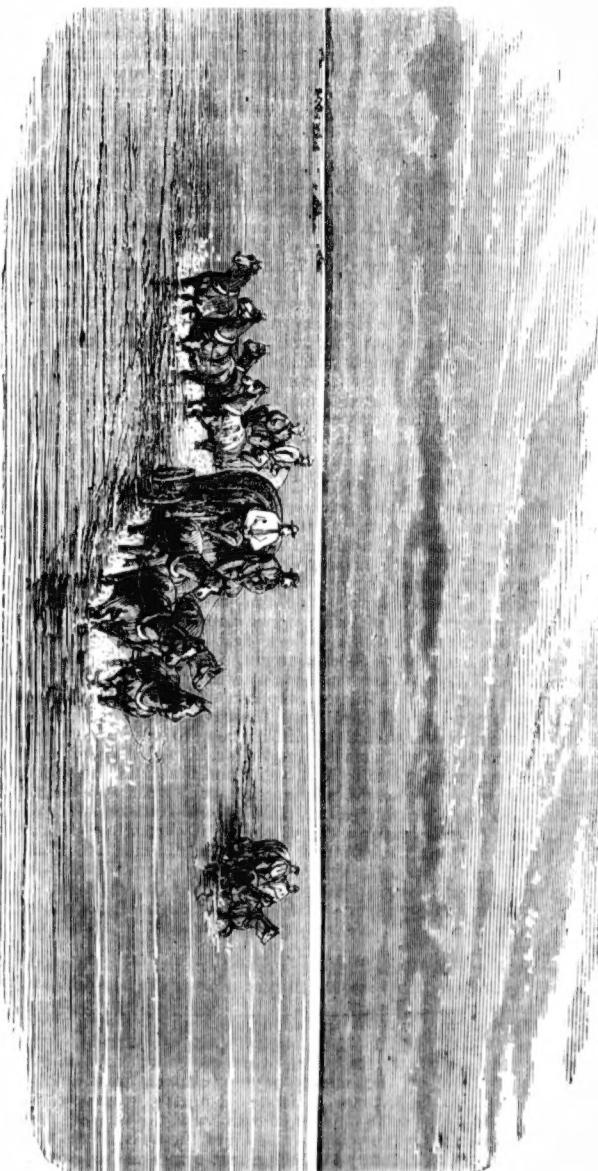
THE STATION AT DENSUING.

traders and storekeepers anxious for the safe stowage of dry goods. For between Omaha and California there are intermediate stations representing all kinds of interests and almost every variety of human nature. There is Denver, in Colorado, for instance, on the south of the Platte river, with 50,000 people living in the surrounding territory amidst the gold and silver mines; then there are the Great Salt Lake, and Utah, and Nevada, all which will be included presently in the great line which will unite the Atlantic with the Pacific.

The line commenced from Sacramento City, and the Californian



PREPARING THE SLEEPERS.



THE PLATE PLAIN.

company carried it towards the west, the branches meeting again on the Sierra Nevada, about ninety miles from Sacramento, which in a few months grew from a station of four hutlike houses to a regularly planned city, with streets like those of Philadelphia and 10,000 inhabitants, many of whom had come with ox-waggons across the salt deserts of the great basin, climbing the passes and canons of the Sierra Nevada, and helping out their scanty forage by oak bark found on the arid plains around the sink of Hudson River.

When Captains Lewis and Clark, explorers of the great west, arrived at Omaha, in 1801, the Indians of the prairie held a great palaver on the hills situated on the left bank of the Missouri, and it is on this side that the colonists have established the present town, which is daily increasing in size and influence, having a population of about 15,000 inhabitants. This prosperity is, of course, attributable to the fact that President Lincoln chose Omaha as the point of departure for the Pacific Railway. This was in 1861, and at that time there were only 3000 inhabitants in the place; but, though it has grown so rapidly, the houses are regularly built, and there are numerous evidences of the decided plan by which small American villages are often laid out with a view to their developing into large townships. Omaha may be reached not only by the lines of railway from the east but by the steam-boats which constantly ply to and from its landing-stages, which are themselves in connection with the railway company—the line running along the river bank.

The laying of the rails in the great plains lying away from Omaha, nearly 300 miles, was, surely, one of the most remarkable events of modern enterprise. Of course, American rail-laying in the wilderness is not such an elaborate work as that of the formation of a line in Europe, and on these level prairie lands it was only necessary to put down sleepers at a moderate level and superimpose the iron way upon them. These sleepers were prepared from rough logs at Omaha. It was made a condition of constructing the line that the first hundred miles to the west of Missouri should be completed by June 27, 1866, and the trunk, which extends as far as 100 deg. of the meridian—that is to say, another 147 miles—should be open in the month of December, 1867. This work was in reality completed on Oct. 5; and, in order to celebrate the event, the Government Commissioners were invited to inspect the route. The journey was made by a large and distinguished party, who set out from Omaha, and, having stopped at various points to inspect the bridges thrown over the Papillon and the Elkhorn, and the stations at Fremont and North Bend, they passed the night at Columbus, where the agents of the company had set up a regular camp lighted by enormous fires, and those of the party who pleased to lodge in that way were provided with tents and buffalo skins; while a spectacle was provided for their amusement, consisting of a mock combat of Indian warriors.

At about ten miles from Omaha the line arrives on the banks of the River Platte, which it follows for some distance to the spot where the stream is divided into two branches, called the North and South forks; after having crossed the latter of which, by means of a bridge, the line reaches the station at Julesburg, which is situated on the Southern fork opposite Fort Sedgwick. Julesburg has grown out of the railway even more decidedly than Omaha, and is destined to be its second in importance. Fort Sedgwick is a Federal station, with a company of troops no larger than is necessary to keep the Indians in check, and before the construction of the railway it was the centre of the military operations of the district. The first houses built at Julesburg were the hotels for passengers, with numerous sleeping-chambers, and these were followed by private villas for the officers and engineers of the company; now it is a town of general stores, shops, and magazines, occupying a site which a few months since was occupied only by the occasional wigwam of the Indian in pursuit of game. At Julesburg the line may be said to end, as far as it is at present available for traffic, and the travellers who are bound on a further journey are compelled to resort to waggons or coaches. In fact, Julesburg is the point of junction between old and new locomotion—the road and the rail. The rail-laying in the plain, however, is going on rapidly—the woodcutters going first to work at cutting down the trees on the line, and who have to form a rude camp against the possible assaults of Indians. These are followed by the engineers, who plant their long poles, marking out the route of the line, and sleep at night in their waggons. Then come the navvies, and the layers of the sleepers for the rails.

Already the black hills echo with the sounds of the woodmen's axes and the picks of the navvies, and at that point will begin the gigantic task of crossing the mountains by way of Fremont's Pass.

The company has 10,000 Chinese labourers at work on the road up the Sierra Nevada; and the tremendous nature of the undertaking is evidenced by the great cuttings in the rocks, as well as by the aspect of Virginia dale, the days of whose wild and beautiful life are numbered, and which will no longer be one of the great hunting-grounds for the sportsman. The pass once formed, and the railway constructed at Williamspring, the greatest obstacle will have been surmounted, before reaching the great Salt Lake, which will then be subject to such incursions from the Gentiles as will probably do more to abolish the peculiar institutions of the Saints than could be effected by any other means. The fact is that when the Mormons were driven from their New Jerusalem at Nauvoo, and founded a settlement in the extensive region to the south that lies between Sierra Nevada on the one side and the Rocky Mountains on the other, the Great Salt Lake City was regarded as the keystone of the arch that would one day unite the Atlantic to the Pacific. The British fur companies were for some time obstructions, since it was desirable for them to keep large tracts of country as hunting-grounds; but the removal of their privileges, the discovery of gold in California, and the finding of passes in the Rocky Mountains, gave a new impetus to the scheme.

Of the two lines now started to meet at the Salt Lake, that which is first completed will be entitled to the national charter and the money grants for the entire line from Omaha to Sacramento.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

We have no news of the opera company; and in such a case as this it may be said emphatically that no news is good news. The promised advertisements which were to set forth the names of the singers engaged, and the arrangements in general for the coming season, have not yet appeared; while an announcement has appeared to the effect that Mr. Mapleson has taken Drury Lane Theatre for performances of Italian opera, and that his tenancy will commence on the 28th. We believe that Mdlle. Clara Louise Kellogg will be heard on the opening night. The other prima donnas will be Mdlle. Titiens, whose engagement will be, as usual, for the entire season; and Mdlle. Nilsson, who can scarcely visit London until the first "run" of M. Ambroise Thomas's Hamlet (in which Mdlle. Nilsson plays the part of Ophelia) has come to an end. Perhaps, too, Mdlle. Irma de Murska may again join Mr. Mapleson's company. The tenors engaged are said to be Mongini and Fraschini. In short, the company, with few changes, will be the company which appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre last season. It has been stated that the as yet unformed Opera company enjoys the right of buying Covent Garden Theatre (for £270,000) until the end of March. If by the end of the month they have not completed their purchase, the temporary contract between the company and Mr. Gye terminates; and it is to be hoped that the enterprising manager of the Royal Italian Opera will then resolve to carry it on for another season on his own account.

Professor Sterndale Bennett's sacred cantata called "The Woman of Samaria," so favourably received last autumn at the Birmingham Festival, has met with equal sympathy from the amateurs of London. Two performances of this admirable work have been given in St. James's Hall, with an adequate chorus, orchestra, and quartet of solo singers. Both were attended by crowded audiences, whose hearty recognition of the merits of the cantata was unmistakable. Mr. W. G. Cousins, Professor Bennett's successor at the Philharmonic Concerts and his representative at the Birmingham Festival, was also his representative on each of these occasions, and the performances could hardly have been better had the composer

directed them himself. Satisfactory as was the execution of "The Woman of Samaria," a fortnight since, it was still more completely satisfying on the second occasion, when the solo vocal parts were undertaken by Mesdames Rudersdorf and Sainton-Dolby, Messrs. W. H. Cummings and Wallworth. The lovely and devotional contralto air, "O Lord, thou hast searched me out" (Mdlle. Sainton); the unaccompanied quartet (for the four principals), "God is a spirit;" and the charming tenor air, "His salvation is nigh them that fear Him" (Mr. Cummings), were, as at the first performance, unanimously encores. The wonderful improvement which the Cambridge musical professor has made in his work since its production at Birmingham, by the addition of the jubilant and masterly chorus in C major, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation;" and the beautiful unaccompanied quartet, "God is a spirit" (previously named), cannot be overestimated. It is now complete at all points, and is in every sense a work of art which would do credit, not only to the English school, but to any school. On this, as on the former occasion, "The Woman of Samaria" was followed by Professor Bennett's popular and delightful secular cantata, "The May Queen," written expressly for, and first performed at the Leeds Festival of 1858, at which the composer was also conductor; and on this, as on the former occasion, Professor Bennett was called forward at the end of "The Woman of Samaria," and enthusiastically cheered by the whole audience.

DEPUTATIONS TO MINISTERS.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

THE Prime Minister received a deputation from Manchester on Tuesday, whose object was to advocate the adoption of the Manchester Education Bill. The deputation consisted of the Hon. A. Egerton; Mr. Bazley, M.P.; Mr. Bruce, M.P.; Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Mr. Fildes, M.P.; Mr. Forster, M.P.; Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P.; Mr. J. B. Hibbert, M.P.; Mr. E. Potter, M.P.; Mr. S. Dixon, M.P.; Mr. E. Worthington, Mr. H. Jenkins, Dr. Watts, Mr. J. A. Bremner, Mr. J. S. Mayson, Mr. J. W. Maclure, Mr. F. Taylor, and Mr. Le Mare. Mr. Disraeli, in reply to the statements advanced by members of the deputation, said:—"Whatever difference of opinion there may be between the Government and the deputation—if, indeed, there be any difference at all—there is at least one point upon which we are entirely agreed on both sides—namely, a sincere desire for the carrying of a measure which may greatly extend and establish the general education of the people of this country. I quite agree with you, that all parties ought to concur in bringing about this great result, and feel the country will never permit the question of education to become a party one. No doubt there will be a variety of opinions upon this matter, and some opinions, even though they are right in themselves, will only be gradually adopted. For myself, I have a strong conviction that the general feeling of the country will support any measure which the people at large believe sincerely aims at extending and establishing on a permanent basis the general education of the people. I cannot pretend that this deputation was necessary to make me acquainted with the principle of my right hon. friend Mr. Bruce's bill, or of the society which you represent. I have followed the proceedings of the conferences at Manchester with the greatest and most unswerving interest. I am perfectly acquainted with the views there represented, and with the arguments urged on both sides. Nor can I pretend for a moment that anything you have said, however ably it might have been urged, can now affect the opinion of her Majesty's Government, for the measure which we think it is desirable should be brought forward, and which I hope will pass, is complete, and will be introduced now very speedily. The state of public business, as you may imagine, renders it impossible for me to fix a particular day, but I am of opinion that the bill will be produced probably—indeed certainly—before ten days are passed. Therefore, I could not for a moment pretend, without affectation, that in such a state of affairs the opinion of the Government can be influenced by the opinions which I have had the honour to listen to. At the same time I am perfectly willing to admit, and cheerfully, that these representations of opinion from men of eminence and authority, who have given up their minds to the subject, are very beneficial, especially to a Government; therefore, I do not regret what has taken place, although I cannot promise I can act in deference to the representations you have made, even if I should happen to agree with them. But I can assure you I have listened to all you have said with much interest, because, even though I may have been familiar with the arguments, there is great advantage in having them urged personally, and by the leading spirits of a community who have given their minds up to the subject; and I can only assure you that her Majesty's Government will earnestly consider the question during the discussions that will necessarily take place; and I can also assure you, in the most earnest manner, that we are most anxious to bring about the carrying of a measure which will give general satisfaction to the country and meet those wants which can no longer be denied, and which must certainly be satisfied." The deputation then withdrew, after expressing the usual thanks.

THE ALABAMA CASE.

On Tuesday a large deputation, chiefly composed of members of Parliament and other gentlemen, members of the Peace Society, waited on Lord Stanley at the Foreign Office, with a memorial from the society on the subject of the Alabama claims. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Baines, M.P. The memorial set forth the necessity for a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the question between the two Governments, the regret of the memorialists that the negotiations for arbitration had broken off, and their conviction that there was nothing in the questions proposed for arbitration, even as now defined by the American Government, which could justify the rejection of that method of settlement which had been initiated by England at the Congress of Paris in 1856, and had been most successfully employed on the occasion of the late Luxemburg difficulty between Prussia and France. After the reading of the memorial Mr. Richard, the secretary of the Peace Society, expressed the cordial gratitude of the deputation to Lord Stanley for his late speech in the House of Commons, and intimated that, had that discussion taken place previously, they might not have thought it necessary to trouble his Lordship at all. The Rev. Newman Hall, Dr. Brock, and Sir Francis Crossley, all of whom had visited the United States since the war, afterwards addressed Lord Stanley, to the effect that the only grievance which rankled in the minds of Americans was that of the Alabama, and that if that were out of the way the great Republican party in the United States would cordially promote kindly feelings towards this country. Lord Stanley, in reply, assured the deputation that the Government were as anxious to maintain peace as they were—perhaps for no country was it of greater importance to maintain peace than for England. We were burdened with an extensive debt, and our taxation, though not intolerable, would not bear augmentation without seriously affecting our productive power. But the Americans were bound in as heavy securities as ourselves to keep the peace, and while he agreed with Sir Francis Crossley that it might not be necessary to be very rigid about the terms, still there must be a feeling of reciprocity. With regard to the general question as to the foreign policy of this country, there had been a great change of late years, and he thought he could congratulate the Peace Society that their principles were becoming more popular. England, at least, stood for peace; and for financial, among other reasons, the Continent would soon be bound to follow her example.

THE LIVERPOOL THEATRES.—MANAGERIAL DISASTERS.—The unprecedented depression in trade and commerce during the last two years has been most disastrous to the managers of the four principal theatres in Liverpool, Mr. H. G. Byron and Mr. Alexander Henderson. Mr. Byron, after most spirited and liberal efforts to direct the fortunes of the Theatre Royal, the Amphitheatre, and the Alexandra, during the last eighteen months, has (say the local papers) been driven into the bankruptcy court, to the great and sincere regret of both his employers and the play-going public. Mr. Henderson, after a seven-years' connection with the Prince of Wales's Theatre, has also been obliged to arrange with his creditors, losing, in about eighteen months, the fortune he acquired in his earlier career as a manager.

PREMIER AND CHANCELLOR.

(From "Echoes from the Clubs.")

CAIRNS: So affairs are pretty well settled, I suppose. You, Stanley, and I form a triumvirate. I am a believer in triumvirates.

DISRAELI: I rather believe in the Dictator or Imperator; but a triumvirate is often a convenient concession. The thing will work.

CAIRNS: Not a doubt. Poor Chelmsford wept when you gave him his dismissal.

DISRAELI: Yes, on the grand-maternal bosom of his beloved *Morning Herald*. But tears were his strong point at the Bar, and you may forgive him for being lachrymose when he makes his final exit.

CAIRNS: What in the world shall I do with Malmesbury? Of course he'll want to behave as if he led the Peers; and, sitting on the woolsack, I shall have no chance of pinching him when he begins to make a fool of himself.

DISRAELI: Poor old "If Possible"! He's a good fellow—the best ever produced by the race of Harris. Don't be hard upon him.

CAIRNS: Not I. At the same time, I should like to discover some way to prevent his making those delicious blunders at which journalists will laugh. You and I never make such blunders.

DISRAELI: Speak for yourself. I am sorry to say that my taste for epigram occasionally leads me into mistakes which I can't help laughing at afterwards. "Ape and angel" is one case in point; "educating the Tories" is another.

CAIRNS: Yes, the idea of educating a Tory is almost too good. Teach Newdegate tolerance or Manners common-sense. Well, being a lawyer, you see, I manage to avoid these little errors.

DISRAELI: To tell you the truth, I don't think they matter much in my case. "The wondrous boy who wrote 'Alroy'" is supposed capable of any absurdity. They look upon my being First Minister as a good joke—but not likely to last.

CAIRNS: They may find it serious and permanent. By-the-way, I felicitate you on the plan you have adopted with those recalcitrant Judges. The new proposal will work well. I suspect Cockburn is already exclaiming, "Sorry I spoke!"

DISRAELI: What should you have done if Cockburn had had to write to you instead of Chelmsford?

CAIRNS: Sent him back his letter, indorsed "Pray reconsider this." But Chelmsford couldn't bully a flea.

DISRAELI: He might drown it in his tears. He's Walpole's only rival in that line.

CAIRNS: Bouverie's speech was delightful.

DISRAELI: Very. He'd like to be back at the Poor-Law Board. I could see Gladstone wince when he described the Liberals as a rabble, with leaders that couldn't lead and followers that wouldn't follow. It was very hard on the people's William.

CAIRNS: It was. But the Liberals have a flattering unction, which they just now use pretty freely. They say they permit you to be Premier just as a precedent for Gladstone. When you have had a few weeks of it, you are to be turned out, and he is to come in.

DISRAELI: A charming scheme. One of their resolutions, no doubt drawn up by Russell and Coleridge, and agreed to at a Carlton-gardens caucus. Let them try it. They'll find they're dealing with a different man from the Earl.

CAIRNS: Why, he was not afraid of them.

DISRAELI: No, nor of anything in the world. But he was too chivalrous to meet Russells and Gladstones on equal terms. He cared nothing for office, and he detested strategy. I do care for office; and I am more than a match for the whole conclave in strategy.

CAIRNS: That I believe. But if they pass a vote of want of confidence?

DISRAELI: I hardly think they dare propose it. I hope they will, however: *quem Deus vult perdere*, you know. Assuming that they are so foolish, will they get a majority in the present House?

CAIRNS: I can scarcely judge.

DISRAELI: I think not. Bright, Lowe, Roebuck, Horsman, would be dead against them—and that represents a large following. But if they beat me I wouldn't resign.

CAIRNS: No?

DISRAELI: Certainly not. I should announce an appeal to the country, which, by the terms of the Reform Act, must be deferred to 1869.

CAIRNS: And then?

DISRAELI: Well, then. Do you imagine the new House will be in a hurry to destroy its creator?

CAIRNS: I can't say. We are in a rather iconoclastic state. I wouldn't answer for the safety of the Creator of the universe if Swinburne could get at him. By-the-way, you'll probably have to make a Bishop shortly. Who's your man?

DISRAELI: I have not decided. But I don't mind telling you, in the strictest confidence, that it will be either Maconochie or Colenso.

THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION held a meeting on Tuesday night, at Manchester, to discuss the ratepaying clauses of the Reform Act. A resolution was adopted in favour of petitioning both Houses of Parliament to restore the compounding system. On Wednesday night a meeting was held in the Townhall at Birmingham—the Mayor in chair—at which the following resolution was passed:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the ratepaying clause of the Reform Act is producing great hardship and misery, and ought at once to be repealed."

THE RATEPAYING CLAUSES OF THE REFORM BILL.—A crowded meeting has been held at the Townhall, Leeds, to protest against the ratepaying clauses of the Reform Act. The meeting was called by about 350 of the principal inhabitants of the town. Mr. Alderman Latham presided; and the resolutions were moved and seconded by Mr. Alderman Carter, Mr. Alderman Luccock, Mr. T. B. Baines, and others. A petition to the House of Commons was adopted in favour of the abolition of the ratepaying and minority-voting clauses of the Act, in favour of a more impartial redistribution of seats, and of vote by ballot.

THE FENIANS.—The trial of Mackay, the Fenian, for the murder of Police-constable Casey, was commenced at Cork on Tuesday morning. In stating the charge, the Attorney-General mentioned that the prisoner, after Casey was shot, on two or three occasions voluntarily said, "I did not intend to shoot Casey; I am sorry I shot Casey;" but he added, "I intended it for Geale." Geale detailed the particulars of the struggle at the capture of Mackay. The pistol was pointed at Geale by the prisoner, when it was struck aside, and Casey fell. It was alleged in defence that the pistol went off accidentally. "Captain" Mackay, when pleading not guilty, claimed to be an American citizen, but did not require a jury *de medicata*. The jury, late on Wednesday evening, after half an hour's consideration, found Mackay not guilty of the murder. It is probable that he will be now tried for treason-felony.—The constabulary at Killybeg, in the county of Limerick, ripped up the flooring of the altar in the Roman Catholic Chapel on Tuesday, and found nearly one hundred pikes, seventy-six of which were in a perfect state of preservation, having been well oiled and wrapped in flannel. There were disturbances in the place last March. The priest has always been opposed to Fenianism, and warned his people against it.

A NEAT LITTLE PLAN.—On Saturday last a charge of fraud of an entirely novel character was investigated at the Police Court in Birmingham. A woman was accused of having conspired with a man, not yet in custody, to solemnise a marriage, in which the man personated a gentleman named Mr. George Brittan (now dead), for the purpose of afterwards raising a specious title to his estate. Mr. George Brittan was an old bachelor, who, having long been in business in Stourbridge, in Worcestershire, had amassed a considerable fortune. The woman in custody had been his housekeeper. A little while ago Mr. Brittan died suddenly, and left no will. His relatives were in council as to the disposition of the property, when a local attorney suddenly made his appearance, and proposed that they should keep one half and that the rest should be given to the widow. "What widow?" cried all the relatives in a breath. "Mr. Brittan's widow, your humble servant," said the housekeeper, coming forward with a certificate in her hand. "We were quietly married at St. Andrew's parish church, in Birmingham, this time last year." The relatives, it may be supposed, were not long in paying a visit to St. Andrew's Church. They found that a marriage had taken place, as certified, on that day, and that the housekeeper was the bride; but, from an examination of the deceased gentleman's photograph, the clergyman and the sexton, who was one of the witnesses, felt almost sure that Mr. Brittan was not the bridegroom. They were afterwards taken to see the body, and then they were positive on the point. The relatives were soon in a position to prove that, on the day of his alleged marriage in Birmingham, Mr. Brittan was confined to his room in Stourbridge; and the housekeeper was taken up. As she was not prepared with her defence, she was remanded till Wednesday next.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE approaches to Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament have long been infested by gangs of "touters," who, under pretence of selling guide-books and showing visitors over the buildings, impose upon simple-minded rustics. The services of the touters are as worthless as the guide-books which they sell. Nevertheless, these fellows may be useful in directing attention to the sixpenny show which the Dean and Chapter of Westminster have chosen to make of the venerable Abbey. Year after year, despite of the enormous revenues of Westminster, and of the sixpences taken at the doors, essential duties connected with the edifice have been neglected. The tomb of Chancer has been suffered to decay. His portrait has perished. The effigies of the old Kings and Queens are stowed away in an upper lumber-room. The statues once surmounting the buttresses on the eastern side have been carried off, and replaced by tombstone models of recumbent figures set upright, in ridiculous fashion, as anyone may see. The very fabric is cracking and settling from the undermining permitted in the construction of a railway within a few hundred feet of the foundation. The ancient, neighbourly, annual dinner to the tenantry (commemorated by Washington Irving) has been discontinued. Ben Jonson's skull has been stolen from its grave in Poets' Corner. But one of the miserable touters outside—who received 2s. for pretending to show the abbey to a couple of ladies, and did not, out of the sum received, pay 1s., as he might have done, to the vergers, who, on receipt thereof, would have rushed about and named the occupants of the most famous tombs—has been committed for trial for obtaining money under false pretences.

A poor little girl, aged scarcely four years, was sent to school at the "convent" of St. Vincent de Paul, Piccadilly, and from day to day manifested increasing reluctance to go to its studies. She was forced to do so under terror of the cane, and, upon arriving there, was taken by an assistant teacher to a copper containing boiling water, over which she was held, by way of reconciling her to premature education. The immediate result was that the poor infant was drawn out horribly scalded from the knees downwards. Perhaps she fell in while struggling; but on this point we offer no opinion. It is, however, noteworthy that, in opposition to other witnesses, a washerwoman at the convent swore that the child never screamed on its immersion. The reverend Mr. Kirke was accepted as bail for the accused. Surely such a case as this, apart from the question of accident or purpose in the infliction of the injuries sustained, is suggestive in many respects of stupid, brutal cruelty. It is cruelty to force any child of such tender years to a school at all. The confinement and enforced study are cruel. The reluctance of the child to submit to scholastic discipline is a natural and instinctive protest, opposition to which, as we once heard a philosopher tell a professional tutor, is "practical blasphemy." The causation of terror, however unaccompanied by intention of fulfilling threats, is in itself a dire cruelty. In the case under notice, the governess, assistant teacher, or whatever she may have been called, had actually threatened to cut off the poor babe's feet for crying; and produced a small saw from her pocket, as if for the purpose. When is this wretched tyranny over hapless infants to end? We know of one charity-school in the metropolis in which a schoolmaster—"no more fitted for his office than a hound," as Mr. Dickens somewhere describes one of the kind—is permitted to chastise poor little girls, with the sanction of a board of gentlemen governors.

Should any Parliamentary debate hereafter arise as to the present licensing system, recent proceedings at the annual licensing meeting of justices at Croydon will scarcely escape comment. Croydon, as probably most of our readers will know, is an assize town in Surrey, and has of late years been much extended, especially since two railway stations, one of them a junction, have been there established. No less than forty persons applied on petition at the meeting to which we have referred for licenses to sell excisable liquors, and every one was refused. Testimonials as to the character of the applicants, the erection of new neighbourhoods, the conveniences of the premises proposed to be converted into victualling houses, were of no avail. A license was even refused to the refreshment-station on the railway line. The law, it is true, gives to justices the power of granting or refusing such licenses; but it was surely never intended by the Legislature that this power should be exercised only in the negative. General restrictions of trade are by law voidable (as between private persons), as contrary to public policy. Perhaps a petition to the Lord Chancellor or to the Home Secretary from the forty disappointed applicants—whose loss by their non-success must amount to some hundreds of pounds—might result in the administration of a necessary lesson to the gentry of the Bench, if not in a thorough reform of the system. The latter is the most needful.

All of our readers who have been interested in the matter of trades unions may recollect the dismay caused by a legal decision as to embezzlements by officers of trades societies not registered under the Friendly Societies Act. At Manchester, on Tuesday last, a prisoner was placed on trial, before Mr. Justice Lush, on the charge of having forged a banker's pass-book and of having uttered the same with intent to defraud. The prisoner had been, in 1862, appointed treasurer of the Manchester Operative House-Painters' Association. Since that period, he had from time to time embezzled sums amounting to £800, leaving to the credit of the society only a sum of £90, instead of its proper capital. He had concealed the deficiency apparent upon the pass-book of the society's account with the bankers by substituting a false pass-book, in which he gave credit for the £800. This book he kept in his own possession until he was accused of defalcation, whereupon he went home and destroyed what he considered to be a necessary piece of evidence against him. As he said himself, "I have burnt it. I should have been a fool if I had not done so." The destruction, however, did him no good, while its admission formed an important point in the evidence against him. Mr. Ernest Jones, on behalf of the prisoner, then took an objection, founded on the case to which we have already referred. What followed we extract, with but slight abbreviations.

Mr. Jones said the society was clearly a society exercising powers in restraint of trade, and being

illegal, such a society could have no funds in the bankers' hands, and that, such being the case, there could be no forgery.

"The Judge said the objection was founded on an entire misapprehension of the ruling in the case quoted in the Court of Queen's Bench. In that case the question was, whether, under certain circumstances, the magistrates had summary powers under the Friendly Societies' Act, and the Court decided that as such society was not an enrolled society under the Friendly Societies Act the magistrates had no such powers. The fact of the society being a trades union would have had no effect in shutting them out from justice, but, undoubtedly, it shut them out from the benefits of the Friendly Societies Act. The only difficult thing would be that all the members would have to join in the prosecution. They could not sue under a corporate name. The law simply did not aid a trades union, but such a society was not indictable. It could not be enrolled so as to have certain benefits under the Friendly Societies Act, but its members were entitled to the same protection under the law as other citizens.

"The jury found the prisoner 'Guilty.'
"On being asked if he had anything to say, the prisoner, with emotion, said, 'I told the truth about lending £50, and for the last six years it has been the skeleton on the wall: it has brought my wife and children to the workhouse and me to a felon's grave.'

"Mr. Justice Lush said his case was not one of fraud simply, but he had robbed his fellow-workmen, who had placed him in a position of trust, of nearly all their available funds, subscribed by them during a number of years. He had robbed them of nearly £800. Now, no greater mischief could happen than that a notion should get abroad that because a society like this was a trades union it could be plundered with impunity. The case which Mr. Jones had referred to simply decided that the societies could not claim the protection of the Friendly Societies Act, but they were as much to be protected as other persons. They were in no other sense illegal than that they were not enrolled. Any notion to the contrary was not only a mistake, but would be a great evil; and, in order to dispel such an impression, and to mark his high sense of the crime the prisoner had committed, he could not pass a less sentence than five years penal servitude."

POLICE.

DEGRADATION.—Robert Mitchell Glover, a person of superior address and education, was brought up on remand before Mr. Flowers, charged with begging.

William Hewitt, officer of the Mendicity Society, stated that on the 3rd inst. he saw the prisoner asking charity from various persons. Witness took him into custody. Some time since he was committed for fourteen days from Marlborough-street court on a similar charge. His story was an extraordinary one. He was well connected, and formerly held a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel in the 3rd Dragoon Guards, and afterwards served in the Turkish contingent all through the Crimean War. After selling his commission he launched into a career of dissipation, squandered his property, and was reduced to a state of destitution. His friends had several times attempted to rescue him from his miserable condition, but after repeated attempts had given up all hope of assisting him.

Mr. Wood, of North-hill, Highgate, stated that a little more than two years ago the prisoner was charged with begging at the Westminster Police Court. He (Mr. Wood) saw the notice in the newspapers and took an interest in the case, having formerly himself given way to habits of drunkenness, by which he was almost ruined; but he had reformed, and recovered a respectable position. He had now a large business as a builder, and, understanding that the prisoner was a man of education, employed him as a clerk and bookkeeper, on the condition that he would abstain entirely from drink. He soon found, however, that the prisoner was utterly useless in that capacity. His memory was so bad that when asked to do two things he was sure to forget one entirely, and would not do the other properly. On one occasion a list of names and addresses in pencil was given him to copy with pen and ink. He took a fortnight to do it, and then it was all wrong. Witness, however, found him other employment, though even in that he was of little use, and so neglectful that he could never be relied upon. At that time witness had taken the prisoner to live in the house with him, as he did not seem to be properly cared for in lodgings. For nine months, whatever his other deficiencies, the prisoner wholly abstained from drink, but by that time he had formed acquaintances in the neighbourhood, and witness was sorry to say they tempted him to drink. He gradually relapsed into his former drunken habits, and ultimately he went away. Witness, however, did not lose sight of him, but obtained employment for him at a distance, and from time to time afforded him what assistance he could under the circumstances. It was, however, all of no avail. He was incapable of keeping employment, as he was incompetent to perform any kind of business. It was impossible to rely on anything he said—not that he was untruthful—there could be no doubt of his perfect honesty and sincerity; but his mind was so impaired that he could not state or remember facts correctly. Something ought to be done to place him under proper care.

Mr. Flowers remanded the prisoner, saying he would consider what could be done for him.

A BURGLAR CAUGHT.—Thomas Whitby was brought up on remand on a charge of burglary. About the middle of February some person got into the house of Mr. Burlington, of No. 5, Vernon-place, Bloomsbury, and stole a quantity of clothing from a room on the second floor. It was supposed at the time that the entry had been effected at the front door by means of a false key, but amongst the articles stolen was a pair of trousers belonging to a gentleman residing in the house, in the pocket of which was a latchkey to open that door. Mr. Burlington, on discovery of the robbery, had the lock removed and a new one fixed in its place. On Saturday night, Feb. 29, Mr. Burlington, having been out for a short time, came home about a quarter to eleven o'clock, and found that his key would not open the lock of the street door. He knocked, and was let in by the servant. It was then found that there was a key (a false one) in the lock upon the inside. Upon this the house was

searched, and the prisoner was found concealed in a cupboard under the stairs. At his feet lay a bundle of linen, eleven silver spoons, four silver forks, and the missing key (of the old lock) which had been stolen in the pocket of the lodger's trousers. The forks and spoons were the property of Mr. Burlington, and had been stolen from the plate basket. They were worth £5. The linen was the property of Mr. Burlington's assistant, and had been sent out to the wash.

The prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed to take his trial at the Old Bailey.

AN IMPOSTOR.—Mary Wilson was charged with endeavouring to obtain charitable contributions from Mr. Wills, of Foley-house, Portland-place, by fraudulent representations. She called at the house of Mr. Wills and represented that her husband was in the Sanatorium for Consumption at Bournemouth, and she wanted assistance to go down and see him. She showed Mr. Wills a letter from the Sanatorium, purporting to be signed by the resident medical officer, Mr. Wills, who had previously given her a sovereign, directed her to call again, and then procured the co-operation of one of the Mendicity Society's officers, to whom she confessed that the whole story was a fabrication. She had been carrying on this system for a long time. Committed for three months.

A MARTIN WHO HAS HAD HIS DAY.—John Martin, 3, Griffin-street, Deptford, described as a blacking manufacturer, was charged with obtaining money by fraud.

He had gone to various shops to sell bottles of blacking, which he stated to be of the most excellent quality. At one shop he sold a dozen, which all turned out to be filled with dirty water; at another shop he became very violent, and threatened to damage the premises because the owner of the shop refused to purchase from him. He was committed for trial.

TOO HARD IN THE TEETH.—At Marlborough-street, Mr. Heather, landlord of the City of Norwich, Norfolk-street, Park-lane, was summoned for having defaced a half-sovereign, tendered to him by William Moger. The complainant went into the defendant's house, and in payment for some refreshment tendered a half-sovereign. The barmaid did not like the appearance of the coin. The defendant took it, and, on biting it, the coin broke in pieces. Conceiving that it was bad, the defendant returned the complainant the fragments. He took the pieces to a jeweller, and, having ascertained that the coin was a genuine one, he took out a summons. Mr. Tyrwhitt decided that the defendant must take the broken coin, pay the value to the complainant, also 2s. 6d. for loss of time and 2s. for the summons.

CHEATING THE POOR.—Mr. Dart, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for the districts of Croydon and Wandsworth, attended to support a number of summonses against shopkeepers for using unjust weights and measures. The only one of importance was against James Doggett, a baker, carrying on business in Battersea.

The inspector stated that he found an ounce weight slipped under the customers' part of the scale, causing it to be unjust. The scale was used for the weighing of bread.

A scale was produced, and the inspector explained the position in which he found the weight. It was placed on one of the cross-bars under the plate on which the bread was weighed. On taking away the weight he found the scale to be an equal balance.

The defendant told the magistrate that he had nothing to say. He knew nothing about the ounce weight. His children while playing might have put it there. He also endeavoured to show that the weight would have dropped off if a loaf had been put on the scale.

Mr. Dart said the weight could not have dropped off the scale.

Mr. Ingham was of opinion that the weight had been put under the scale intentionally, and said the defendant must pay the full penalty of £5 and 2s. costs.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—B. W. BELL, Tring, draper.—T. HARVEY, Fulham, builder.—W. FARRAR, Hoxton, stone merchant.—J. T. ELMAN, Brentwood, cooper.—J. ROTHWELL, Ormskirk, tailor.—W. GLEDHILL, Manchester, licensed victualler. J. OLDFHAM, jun., and A. BELL, Grange, builders.

BANKRUPT.—G. WOOD, Kingdland-road, carman.—T. G. DICKIE, Westminster, licensed victualler.—H. W. CLARK, Golden-square, carman.—H. RUSSELL, Malda-hill, baker.—KNOX, Brompton, baker.—W. BROWNING, Whitehall, oil and colour man.—H. SIMPSON, Stratford, brewer.—G. C. ROCK, Walworth, baker.—T. R. RATHBONE, Walworth, compositor.—W. M. JAMES, Hampstead-road.—J. ARBER, Cavendish-square, Notchman.—S. STUNGGATE, and A. SPENCER, Woolwich-pa-nobrokers.—F. SOAMES, Camberwell, greengrocer.—E. C. COTTINGHAM, Wistech, surgeon.—E. S. LEWIS, Abergevenny.—E. PAUNDS, Hampstead-road, boarding-house keeper.—J. L. HATTON, Aldridge, musical composer.—G. COWAN, Islington, draper.—G. BARTON, Rotherhithe, seed merchant.—W. BROOK, Margate, attorney-at-law.—J. HEAVISIDE, Chalk Farm-road, outfitter.—J. PARSONS, Deptford.—H. H. BROWNING, Old Jewry, tailor.—T. FORSKUT, Regent-street, tailor.—W. N. BAGHOTT, Belgrave, merchant.—K. W. TRIPPOCK, Clerkenwell.—J. W. WOOLNUGH, Hoxton, bricklayer.—W. B. ELIUS, Nottingham, tobacconist.—W. MARSHALL, Solihull, solicitor.—J. STEELE, Chittenden, farmer.—S. HEATLEY, Shrewsbury, farm bailiff.—H. MACKENZIE, Worcester, builder.—H. A. PITT, Liverpool, wine merchant.—H. RADFORD, Worcester, milliner.—T. PENSON, Wolverhampton, licensed victualler.—J. B. ELIUS, Nottingham, tobacconist.—W. MARSHALL, Solihull, solicitor.—J. S. WHITTY, Bristol.—C. CAMBRIDGE, Bristol, oil and colour man.—W. H. DANIELS, Gloucester, builder.—A. EDWARDS, Hartland, chemist.—J. W. CLAPTON, Dewsbury, cloth manufacturer.—J. HAGGER, Haverhill, saddler.—A. DUNBAR, Liverpool, provision-dealer.—W. W. FOSTER, Salford, licensed victualler. J. ALLEN, Radcliffe-bridge, Lancashire, tape manufacturer.—J. H. BARTON, Manchester, packer.—J. B. BRIERLEY, Pendleton, cotton manufacturer.—B. and J. FELL, Manchester, cotton manufacturers.—J. and W. H. SHAW, Saddleworth, woollen manufacturers.—J. HUNLEY, Newcastle-on-Tyne, grocer.—J. JONES, Birmingham.—T. W. PARKES, Birmingham.—W. BOALER, Everton, dealer in cotton.—C. B. FAIRBANKS, Liverpool, master elevator.—W. SANDERS, Luton, marine-store dealer.—T. FARRER, Hastings, jeweller.—R. LATHAM, Hereford, machinist.—T. OAKFORD, Fakenham, braier.—J. CHAPMAN, Witherdale, innkeeper.—J. DADD, Sossaler, mariner.—J. H. PHILLIPS, Knowle.—J. BLAYLOCK, Sassenhwaite, miller.—A. G. HOOPER, Worcester, cordwainer.—W. A. CARTER, Gloucester, schoolmaster.—J. MACKAY, Morpeth, saddler.—R. SHAW, Rotherham, wallpaperer.—J. RICHARDSON, Swinton, labourer.—H. HARRIS, Burnley, butcher.—J. PEARSON, Oldham, plasterer.—G. WRIGHT, North Petherton, haulier.—T. PENDERKEST, Salford, beer-house keeper.—J. AWDE, Wem, coachman.—J. P. WILLIAMSON, Manchester, joiner.—W. BURY, Birkenhead, bookseller.—G. FLETCHER, Sossaler, druggist.—W. JACKSON, Nottingham.—S. DEARLE, Farmfield, carrier.—P. HODGKINS, Farmfield, cooper.—W. THOMAS, Llandyfdogw-sinker.—J. J. OLDFIELD, Cleecheatone, whitensmith.—A. SHAW, Liverpool.—W. THOMAS, Port Tennant, licensed victualler.—J. HARRIS, Aberdeen, butcher.—A. HAYES, Chatham, boatbuilder. R. COOK-ON, Kingston-on-Hull, cooper.—H. L. DODDS, Kingston-on-Hull, ale and porter merchant.—D. JONES, Llandyfdogw-rery, grocer.—D. FLOYD, Prices Riborough, shoemaker.—W. HAYLOR, Slough, butcher.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—J. MILNE, Arbroath, grocer.—J. ABUECKLE, Glasgow, cork manufacturer.—D. MACKINNON, Island of Mull.—A. HOWIE, Aberdeen, warehouseman.—C. M. DOUGLAS, Glasgow, commission agent.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—J. HIGGINSON, Thornbury, clerk in holy orders.

BANKRUPTS.—B. SCOTTING, Shepherd's-bush, builder.—W. COLEMAN, shadwell, milkman.—J. S. WILLETT, Barmston, greengrocer.—F. W. HANCOCK, York-road, commission agent.—A. J. STUART, Gosport, Captain.—J. DOGGETT, Battersea.—W. JOHNSON, Towse, tailor.—G. ROBINSON, Addiscombe, baker. D. OLIVIER, Chorlton, E. T. HILBERT, Birmingham.—J. GILLS, Westmoreland-ouidings, City.—J. NIGHTINGALE, Wimbleson, milliner.—A. CLARKE, Wandsworth-road, baker.—W. J. BURGESS, Sutton, stone-mason.—J. WOODHOUSE, Canning Town, bricklayer. A. MILLS, Caledonian-road, chessmonger's assistant.—J. B. NEWCOMB, Sodenham.—B. BOYDEN, Stoney, tailor.—H. TH. B. Old Brentford, stationer.—J. FULLER, Sossaler, cattle salesman. N. O. DOVALL, Kentish Town, zincworker.—J. CHAMBER. Albany-street, Regent's Park, messenger.—A. J. SMITH, Shepherd's-bush, schoolmaster.—G. C. COOKE, Kentish Town.—W. H. ROBERTSON, Ingrave, cattle-dealer.—R. M. DAYEY, Fleet-street, printer.—F. FIELD, Upper Clapton, builder.—G. B. RICHARDSON, Lilypot-lane, City, needle manufacturer.—H. J. BYRON, Liverpool, theatrical manager.—J. R. HAMLET, Clerkenwell, gold and silver refiner.—W. WRIGHT, Bethnal-green.—P. R. HODGE, Adelphi, civil engineer.—J. SWAN, Fenge, artist.—C. GIBBS, Cannon-street, warehouseman.—G. WEIZELB. Peckham, importer of foreign goods.—A. CUDDEFORD, Huddington schoolmistress.—B. MULLER, Hastings, jeweller.—J. G. BAYLEY, Westbromwich, builder.—J. BURKINGTON, Fexter, jeweller.—G. WOOD, Sossaler, Yorkshire, stone-mason.—J. HIGGINSON, Easting, clerk in holy orders.—N. N. CHARLE. Beadford, hotel-keeper.—T. HOLT, Bradford, umbrella manufacturer.—J. BLACKBURN, Blackfriars-road, cooper.—H. H. WHITFORD, Liverpool, bookseller.—J. JOWETT, Horton, grocer. T. TROW, Sossaler, boot and shoe maker.—J. BURWELL, Llandy, dealer in fancy goods.—H. FITCHES, Liverpool.—J. MOLYNEUX, Everton, licensed victualler.—J. WENLOCK, Manchester, smallware manufacturer.—L. ROBINSON, Frome, wood, grocer.—J. BUTLER, East Kirby, farmer.—J. BARLOW, Whitton.—E. BAUGH, Birkenhead, shopman.—P. WEBB, Sossaler, shoemaker.—R. DAWSON, Bury-head, tea and cigar dealer.—F. COWLEY, Leeds, capmaker.—W. WADE, Leeds, grocer.—WEALE, Leeds, grocer.—W. S. DUNNING, Leeds.—A. JONES, Weston-super-Mare, master mariner.—G. WRAY, Barnsey, music master.—B. DYSON, Thurgoland, saddler.—G. COTTEN, Hythe, carpenter.—T. BRADING, Isle of Wight, builder.—G. SCOTT, Louth, relieving officer.—S. CHOUCHER, Preston, next-door-sham, baker.—H. HOOKER, Wottonham, baker.—J. SLY, Braintree, beer-house keeper.—R. HENDERSON, Saltburn-by-the-sea, greengrocer.—W. WALFORD, Tunstall, coal-dealer.—J. NUTTON, Eiland, contractor.—M. HANLEY, Birmingham, tailor.—G. DEAKIN, Birmingham, gut jeweller.—H. KUSLION, Heywood, calico weaver.—B. A. WOOD, Bristol, beer retailer.—J. CLAYTON, Bradford, tailor.—W. JACKSON and R. SMITH, Liverpool.—J. REED, Bridget Ferry, butcher.—G. BAINS, Boston, printer.—G. DAVID, Brighton, carpenter.—T. H. THOMPSON, Holyhead, civil engineer.—A. B. DAWES, Ryde, mail-car driver.—B. B. BARTHAM, Reading, coal merchant.—H. OLAVES, Bath, baker.—J. WALLON, Bath, accountant.—W. WHITAKER, Ingleton, labourer.—P. GEORGE, Reuvas, grocer.—S. JACOBS, Newport, Monmouthshire, professor of music.—C. AYLING, Brighton, beer retailer.—G. JONES, Brighton, assistant in a lodging-house.—W. LINDSON, Chichester, woodman.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—BARCLAY and DOWNES, Stewarton, bonnet manufacturers.—W. JAMIESON, South Queensferry, draper.—J. TAYLOR, Hopman, shipowner.

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ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT.—Miss BERRY-GREENING'S THIRD ANNUAL CONCERT, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, Patrons, the Marquis of Donegal, and the Viscount Bangor. Band of the Coldstream Guards, and the Volunteer Melodists—Lovers' Songs. Commence at Eight. Admission One Shilling.

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NICHOLSON and CO., Silkmercers, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard, have just completed a very extensive purchase of Lyons Silks, Black and Coloured, at very advantageous prices. The following advertisements detail the particulars of this very important parcel.
Ladies unable personally to inspect the stock can have 500 patterns, representing £20,000 worth of Silks, sent to them post-free.
NICHOLSON and Co., 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

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BANKRUPT'S STOCK—BLACK SILKS, Half Price.
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Baker and Crisp's, 198, Regent-street.

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Patterns post-free.
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The New Corded Silks, 4s. 6d. to 5s.
198, Regent-street.

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This make of Black Silk we warrant to wear. Prices commence at 3s. 11d. to 8s. 11d. per yard. Patterns free.
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JOHN HARVEY and SON, 69, Ludgate-hill.

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CORN FLOUR, for all the uses to which the best Arrowroot is applicable.

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